

Second, it was started when the farm families were busiest and could not because of the amount of work participate in the program. We were told by families contacted to wait and come back in the fall.

The third obstacle was the loss of the home demonstration agent and part-time assistant agent, therefore throwing more work on the remaining staff. This additional work on the remaining staff was work that was started by, and when the full Extension personnel was in the county and therefore had to be completed.

#### IX. Use of Specialist

As stated before in this report, specialist are always used where possible.

Specialist are used extensively in setting up and carrying out activities of commodity committees. In the beginning the specialists help to give the agricultural situation and the situation of the specific commodity in so far as the nation, state, and county is concerned. After committees decide the course of action needed on these special commodities, Extension specialists help to work out details of meetings, schools, publicity, etc.

The same use of a specialist applies to 4-H club work as well as the general agricultural work and adult work of the county.

Some specific use of specialists in the past year were as follows: helping to set up activities of dairy committee, beef committee, forestry committee, poultry committee, Rural Life Institute program, artificial breeding program; 4-H dairy program, 4-H tractor program, 4-H horticulture program, and 4-H tobacco show and sale. Specialist for all the above were used in the way stated above.

In addition the specialists have been used where necessary for individual help to farmers such as diseases of tobacco, housing, home grounds, farm management, and others.

VII. Evaluation and Future Strengthening of Program

One of the most difficult tasks is that of getting farm people in the county to assist by serving and working on different committees. Some progress has been made on this work in an effort to tie the committees in and have a County Extension Service Board. This is a slow process and more concentrated effort will be put on it in the coming year.

The public relations between the county Extension office, the businesses and others have been built to where there is a good and wholesome relationship. This is evident by the support given the many different projects. For example, approximately \$2000 has been given by these people for different phases of the work participated in directly by the Extension office.

Since my resignation I have been told repeatedly by county people that public relations through the county Extension office and the business people have been built to a much higher degree than has ever been obtained. Several business people have made the same statement.

Some phases of the work have been very gratifying in that participation was extremely good and the end results were up too, and in some cases above expectations.

Participation in group meetings is declining. This is evident in civic organizations as well as other types of group participation. I feel that one reason for this decline in group participation is the effort that has been made to get more information to the people in the form of leaflets, letters, in the newspaper, on radio and TV. One other reason for the decline in participation is the fact that in the county as everyone says, "There are too many meetings." The dispensing of information in the ways mentioned above has stimulated somewhat the personal calls in the office and for outside help.

Additional meetings on management of the different farm enterprises were very successful during the past year. These seem to be more successful than on the farm tours and demonstrations. These meetings are usually held at night. They will be combined with on the farm demonstrations and used more extensively in the coming year.

VIII. Farm and Home Development Program

Brunswick County is not one of the pilot counties in this program and we have done very little work in this phase of Extension. The obstacles to this work have been three fold.

First, it was started when the county program was set up and going full force.

(2)

(3)

## VI. Other Means of Reaching People

### A. Radio, Newspaper, and TV

The County Extension Staff participated on weekly radio programs on two stations covering practically all the county. These programs cover h-h work as well as adult work. The programs are adapted so as to bring to the people announcements of meetings, certain phases of the work taken up at the meetings and follow up work on these meetings and demonstrations.

Other agencies and professional workers are also assisted in their programs with these radio programs. Very little attempt is made to give specific recommendations on the radio but the main idea is to tell the people of new practices, of new bulletins, and where they might get any information.

The local newspaper is used somewhat the same way as the radio programs. The agent and the assistant, each have a weekly column in the paper where different announcements, names of new bulletins, etc. are listed. There has been added in the newspaper a farm page where special stories of what farmers are doing and special stories on different recommendations are given.

The county Extension staff participated in a regular TV program over WEEK TV, Petersburg, Virginia during the last year. Local talent, local farm men and women, and specialists are used extensively on this program. A special effort is made to always use something of local interest rather than state interest for the TV program.

### B. County Pictures and Bulletin Boards

The extensive use of colored slides is being made in meetings in the county. The county Extension office has a camera and we are now taking pictures of special activities, good practices being carried out on the farms within the county in an effort to adapt our pictures to county use.

Along with the use of these slides and meetings, three business firms in the county purchased and gave to the county agent an automatic projector and viewer for display in different parts of the county. This viewer holds enough slides so that a story in the form of pictures can be told of any given project. For instance, if we wish to tell a story on forestry a series of slides can be set up in the projector, each slide being on the screen six seconds giving forestry practices from the setting of seedlings to the harvesting of the final cut.

Another idea in reaching people was the use of bulletin boards and racks which were displayed in local stores. Nineteen of these bulletin boards and racks were given by local business people in the county. These are displayed in community stores where farmers tend to congregate in the evenings and on days of adverse weather. The bulletin board is used for announcements of meetings and timely information in leaflet form. The bulletin racks are used for displaying the latest and timely bulletins.

A practice dairy judging class was held in conjunction with the Mecklenburg 4-H members on a dairy farm in this county. Cooperation from the dairymen in the matter of using their cattle and equipment for these contests is ample.

In connection with the dairy project there is a special purebred dairy calf chain in the county. This chain has done much to keep club members in the club longer. Personal visits and personal demonstrations were included in the 4-H dairy club program.

Also in connection with the dairy project a special judging demonstration was given in which the club members were shown all points to consider in the proper selection of a desirable dairy animal.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT CLUB ACTIVITIES

4-H clubs in six counties cooperated in furnishing material for a six county 4-H newspaper published by the Courier Record at Blackstone. Brunswick county clubs also participated in the six county Share the Fun program and the 4-H float parade. The activities were held in observance of National 4-H Club Week. These activities were made possible with the cooperation of the county business establishments, the three Ruritan clubs in the county, 4-H club members, parents, and friends of 4-H, and of county Extension personnel.

Some 200 4-H club members took part in the six county celebration. State agents and Extension personnel, and a member of the National 4-H club committee, Mr. Leslie E. Troeger, were present to assist in any way possible with the activities.

Club members participated in the 4-H Short Course, county 4-H club camp, and the three county 4-H conservation and wildlife field days.

Club members were encouraged to complete all record books and to take part in more county club activities.

More 4-H leaders assisted with 4-H club this year and there were more 4-H club members winning county and district awards. More work was done with 4-H leaders and therefore it is felt that this is the reason for the increase in county and district awards.

The percentage of record book completion was also higher this year and it is hoped that a near 100 percent will be reached in the near future.

During the club year there were 92 club meetings with leader assistance and there were 94 demonstrations conducted by these local leaders.

The objectives of the project were: the selection of the animal, proper feeding, and efficient management practices. This practice is not recommended for all practical purposes. This is a special project to show what can be done to make a top quality animal through efficient production methods. The club member established regular feeding and watering practices and a more thorough job in training and fitting the animal. The club member received the income from the animals and used it for much needed farm equipment and supplies.

The parents have shown more interest in the baby beef project and the project has expanded because of their interest. They have become more familiar with the entire baby beef program and have improved their own cattle feeding and management practices to some extent. All beef cattlemen were urged to visit these young beef producers and to attend the special show and sale which was widely publicized through h-H club members, newspapers, radio and TV programs.

#### E. Tractor

The entire four units of the h-H tractor maintenance program were completed and a county contest was held. The county winner and the alternate winner represented Brunswick County in the district h-H tractor driving contest with the county winner finishing fifth in the contest.

The h-H tractor program emphasized the care of the tractor and other farm machinery which is used in connection with the tractor. This project is sponsored by the farm machinery dealers of the county and their furnishing of tractors and equipment for demonstrations and contests. Parent interest and dealer cooperation with club members is excellent. The parents take part in the program in the form of discussion and seeing that club members have transportation to attend.

It is felt that the tractor project meets the goals which were set up in that the need for better care of the farm tractor is a necessity. Parents became conscious of the fact that the minor things give them the most trouble and cost them the most money. All parents and leaders were given responsibility in some phase of the tractor contest. Local dealers furnished the needed machinery to hold and complete the contest. County business firms donated prizes for this contest.

#### F. h-H Dairy

Work has been done on the much needed proper selection and judging of dairy cattle. In this, as in other projects, the younger member is encouraged to properly select and judge dairy cattle thereby getting the dairymen of the county more conscious of these two important phases of dairying. Artificial breeding has been emphasized in this project for better cows and higher production per cow.

The objectives of the program are stressed at all times to the members. These objectives are to teach club members simple electric repairs, care of electrical equipment and appliances, and the importance of electricity on the farm. In addition the club members are taught to build less complicated electrical equipment, the performing of electric demonstrations, and to assist other club members to understand more about electricity and its use on the farm.

Because of the interest of the club member the parents assisted in securing the needed materials for the 13 articles which were made and turned in during the length of the project.

#### C. Junior Tobacco Show and Sale

The Junior Tobacco Show and Sale contest was carried to a successful completion in that all who participated made improvements according to Extension recommended practices. The Junior Tobacco Show and Sale is sponsored by the tobacco associates and the county tobacco warehousemen in cooperation with the Extension Service. This was carried out to emphasize to the tobacco farmer through these junior members the great need and importance of producing and marketing a top quality tobacco. This was greatly emphasized and that the export trade has been decreased somewhat by the production of poor quality tobacco.

The tobacco was placed on the warehouse floor so that all present could see the recommended methods of grading, displaying, handling, and selling. The individual club member was contacted frequently from the time he prepared his tobacco bed in the winter until he sold his tobacco on the warehouse floor the following fall.

Recommendations which the individual club member used consisted of proper plant bed management, field fertilizer practices and transplanting methods, soil and plant insect control measures, harvesting, and marketing of the finished product.

The results of the contest were very noticeable in that people who knew very little about tobacco remarked that there were differences in the various baskets displayed. Also buyers paid premium prices for this contest tobacco. More emphasis should be placed on this special project tobacco so that more farmers will produce better quality tobacco.

#### D. Baby Beef

The 1956 baby beef project was carried by three h-H club members. This is a special project called the baby beef show and sale and is sponsored by the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, Petersburg, Virginia.



#### V. 4-H Club Work

The 4-H club work in Brunswick County is carried on through the schools. All clubs in the county are in the schools except two special out of school clubs. Cooperation between the teachers, principals, superintendent and the Extension service in Brunswick county is very good. No club meetings are held during the summer vacation months, however, special club projects are carried on as well as special programs that affect all clubs.

During the last club year there were 14 clubs in the county with 180 boys and 214 girls. Due to the lack of a home demonstration agent the county agent and assistant agent carried on club work with the girls during most of the last club year.

Planning of the county club program for the year is done through the efforts of the county 4-H council, adult leaders, and the Extension personnel. Boys are allowed to select any project in the way of crops or livestock they desire if this project is offered and are also required to take an overall club project.

#### A. Swine

The county 4-H swine project was emphasized more this year in an effort to teach 4-H boys and parents within the community practices in growing correct type weight and efficient growing of hogs. There are two types of swine projects offered in the county. First is the Sears Roebuck Foundation pig chain which consists of five gilts and one boar. These five gilts are given to special boys and are rotated in the different communities of the county. The other pig project is the general swine project where the boys who take the project buy their own pigs and of course do not pass on a pig as in the Sears pig chain.

A need for better feeding practices, better care, housing, and overall management of swine assistance along with developing a club member well in these practices, assistance is also given them with the development of leadership, character, and citizenship.

This project will be carried on in the coming club year and continued emphasis will be placed on balanced feeding and adequate pasture.

#### B. Farm and Home Electric

The 4-H farm and home electric project is offered each year to all qualified 4-H club members. The current year club members completed 100% and turned in 12 articles which they had made. With the assistance of the three power companies serving the county the 4-H electric program was held each Friday afternoon for five weeks. Two of the enrolled 4-H electric members gave a demonstration on the Petersburg, Virginia, TV station, WPEX, Channel 8. The demonstration was "How to Properly Clean an Electric Motor."

## F. Beef Cattle

There are approximately 6,000 head of beef cattle in Brunswick County. This is an increase of cattle but not the increase we have had in the past three or four years. The program on beef cattle in the county for this year has not been as extensive as heretofore. Main emphasis has been on culling, selecting better cattle, and selecting good sires.

It was felt that an increase of quality in cattle was needed since the price is usually, except for periods of scarcity, governed by quality more than quantity. It is felt that more cattle is needed but the major need is for a better quality of cattle as well.

Most of the work on beef cattle for this year has been done with individuals and advising them on selecting good herd sires. Part of the work was done through the Feeder Calf Sale which is an annual affair. Records are kept on this sale, that is, the way the individual farmers calves grade on the market, and these records are used to measure the progress of the individual herd.

One of the other major ways to get better cattle in the county was to show what good cattle are by our better producers showing their cattle in the county livestock show. This is an annual affair and is participated in by the civic organizations.

The results of the work and publicity given to the grades of animals have been more particular selecting by the producer and buying of better bred animals by those who are just going into the beef cattle business.

## G. Other Projects

### (1) Rural Life Institute

An annual Rural Life Institute was held in the county in October with the participation of ministers, a few laymen from the churches, and professional workers from all federal, state, and county agencies. These Rural Life Institutes are an effort to get all the agencies and churches to work more closely together to help guide the people to their needs and to give each a better understanding of what the other is doing.

### (2) Social Security

The county agent sponsored a number of Social Security meetings for farmers in the county with a representative of the Social Security office participating. A number of these meetings were held and made possible by the Rural Clubs and home demonstration clubs of the county. The meetings were very successful and brought to the farmer the fact that Social Security was available, stimulated his thinking in regard to his own Social Security problems, and as evidence by the increased work by the Social Security office, was very successful.

Emphasis was put on the dairy breeding at our livestock show held in the county where dairymen showed all animals and particularly showed artificially bred animals. Some background of these artificially bred animals was given at the show.

Some of the results of the program in 1956 was an increase in the number of people using the artificial breeding services.

With more emphasis being placed on production of good forage crops, a number of dairymen who heretofore were not using silage have built silos either up-right or trench type and gone into a green forage crop feed plan. Some dairymen who have been attempting to grow grain are now buying the grain and growing more permanent and supplementary pastures.

As a result of the emphasis being put on supplementary pastures for winter and summer grazing, more and more dairymen are concentrating on the seeding of supplementary pastures using them for hay and ensilage as well as grazing. This is especially true with the dairyman who is limited in acreage and is trying to increase his production on the small farms.

An overall dairy group consisting of all dairymen in the county shipping to Norfolk and all dairymen shipping to North Carolina was set up early in the year. These dairymen have regular meetings with a 30 to 45 minute educational program and then divide into shipping groups for business sessions. These programs have consisted of better management in artificial breeding. One of the major activities which was developed and came from these meetings is the installation of bulk tanks and bulk tank shipping of milk by one of the groups. This program is well underway and it is anticipated within the next six months approximately 50% of this group will have installed bulk tanks.

This dairy group was formed through the work of the county Extension personnel and the county dairy committee and from all indications it has been well worth the time spent.

#### E. Poultry

Poultry is a very minor enterprise in the county, however, there is some need for diversification and a need in the county for better poultry producers as well as a few additional poultry producers. Major emphasis of work on poultry this year has been meetings of a nature, outlined by a committee, to get better poultry practices on the few poultry farms that are now established and establish new farms.

This work was carried out by having semi-annual meetings with all interested poultry producers and by individual farm visits with the use of specialists.

As a result of this work, better poultry practices have been put into effect by the producers and better culling by the owners of farm flocks.

As supervisor for Brunswick county on the district board of supervisors, a considerable amount of work has been done on soil and water conservation through special programs such as Conservation Week, Conservation Sunday, and other special observances.

In relation to this work some demonstrations on land drainage have been given with soil conservation service. Emphasis has also been placed on soil and water conservation in other means, in the form of encouraging more cover crops and planting more trees, and general management of woodland.

#### D. Dairying

Dairying in the county is one of the more specialized enterprises and like beef cattle is a comparatively new enterprise. We have at the present 140 Grade A dairies in the county.

The main problems of our dairy industry, and the one needing the most emphasis, is a good breeding program to enable the dairyman to produce heifer replacements that would increase production. This is more true than ever since the price cost squeeze is on the dairyman as well as other type farming. This situation is being brought to the dairymen through the artificial breeding association in the county.

The artificial breeding program has been increased somewhat due to the efforts of the dairy committee and the directors of the local artificial breeding association. The directors of the association and the county agent visited all dairies in the county in March to aid them in their problems and to point out to them the advantages of using artificial breeding; in an effort to increase their herd production. Several county wide programs have been given for the dairy farmers using specialists, films, and visual aids in an effort to educate the dairymen to the advantages of this program. Another visit to all dairymen was made by the directors and county agent in August and the technician reports now visible results of this work.

Probably the other situation that needs the most emphasis is feeding and management of the dairy cow with an effort to get the small dairyman away from the production of grains and into using more forage crops.

Through the Artificial Breeding Association, an attempt was made to get more artificial bred cattle on the dairy farms in Brunswick County. The association held an annual meeting early in the year and the theme of the meeting was better breeding and better feeding. The remainder of the work done in this particular phase was through the artificial inseminator and personal contact as well as radio, TV, and newspaper.

A field meeting where dairymen observed the grassland farming techniques and efficiency of other dairy farmers in the county was held.

\$200 was given in prize money for the forestry contest as well as a banquet for all participants at the end of the contest year when prizes were announced. The dinner for all in attendance at the forestry school was given by one of the local wood using industries. This was in addition to that had been given by these people in advertising the program.

The result of this program seems to be twofold. First, through the publicity we were able to get more people interested in better forestry work. We were also able to get the interest of the general public in forestry conservation and improvement as well as those people who were working on specific projects.

The second result of the program was to get the commercial interest, wood using industries as well as other businesses, to work together on this one project and help to support it. A wood using industry through a local bank gave about three quarters of a million trees for planting. They also sold materials for killing hardwoods at 50 per cent of the retail cost.

#### 4. Soil and Water Conservation

The county Extension office cooperates with the local soil conservation service in many phases of the soil and water conservation work in the county.

Soil and water conservation is, of course, only one phase of overall farm management. It is an important phase but probably not any more important than other phases of farm management since with soil and water management and no management of crops, labor, etc., the farmers income would still be very limited.

The county agent from Brunswick county is supervisor on the Southside Soil Conservation District and therefore works closely with the district and with the county work unit in getting more soil conservation and water conservation on the land. The need is great as attested by the amount of soil in the creek channels and by the amount of erosion on the farms.

Work is still being done to interest the farmers in the Great Creek Watershed area in getting conservation on the land in that area. There is, however, a great lack of interest in the people in the watershed program itself, however they are cooperating in getting farm plans on their land and in general soil and water conservation programs.

Several meetings have been held in the area as general meetings and meetings with the leaders of the area in an effort to increase their interest. It is anticipated that this winter will give some indication as to whether or not the effort will be continued or dropped.

woodland into good producing timber since approximately 67% of the area of the county is in farm woodland. Of this 67%, it is estimated that probably 30% is not timber of any immediate commercial value and of this 30%, of course, there is an unknown amount of young timber that will not be ready for market for several years.

Bringing the hardwood land into good production is one of the main problems of the people and one that has been receiving a lot of interest through the county forestry committee.

The county forestry committee in the beginning of the year set up a program attempting to bring to the farmers more up-to-date information on overall woodland management and trying to educate the landowner to the fact that his trees are another crop just like his tobacco crop.

The work on forestry was carried on in two major ways. First, a forestry school was held in January with major emphasis on tree planting and on converting hardwood land to the production of good pine timber. This forestry school has been carried on for several years. During this year's school, more emphasis was put on overall woodland management. This was done because most farmers need to know how to plant, how to take good care of a stand of pine, and how to get hardwood land into pine production since practically all farmers have a place for each of these practices.

The county forestry committee, which is one of the most active committees in the county, was very effective in helping to carry on this program. They helped to outline the school and carry it out. The school was used in the form of classroom teaching as well as actual demonstrations on a farm where all recommended practices had been carried out by the landowner under the supervision of technical foresters.

Another phase of the forestry program outlined by the forestry committee was the forestry contest. All persons interested in forestry were able to join this contest and carry out one or more good forestry practices. A total of 20 adults and juniors entered the contest. The committee felt that this was an excellent number and was close to the maximum number that could be worked with. The majority of these completed their project and others were complete or near completion, however, did not have time to participate in the final phase of the contest. This program was given a lot of publicity and was carried out with enthusiasm. The better projects from this contest will be used for community meetings in the future.

The cooperation of the people, other agricultural workers, commercial interest, and public agencies were excellent for the forestry project. All of these helped to publicize the different forestry projects in the county and aided in such things as judging and helping with demonstrations. The banks and wood using industries of the county furnished prize money and banquets in connection with the project. A total of

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The tobacco program of the county is carried on through the tobacco committee which consists of one man from each magisterial district in the county.

A number of demonstrations of varieties on the farm was used to familiarize the tobacco producer with varieties being recommended as well as varieties that are yet in the experimental stage.

There is also one company evaluation plot in the county of three acres where as many as six varieties are grown for tobacco companies. Information from this plot is simulated by the staff at the Chatham Experiment Station who guide them in their recommendations of varieties and to aid the companies to find out what some of the experimental varieties are like in the manufactured product.

Major emphasis was also put on the production of better plants. Demonstrations were put on during last spring and fall in fumigating plant beds, spraying and dusting plant beds for the control of insects and diseases, and fertilizing plant beds.

During the winter approximately ten community meetings were held by the Extension staff to bring to the tobacco farmers information on the overall production of tobacco from the plant bed to the market.

Tobacco growers were also urged to control diseases and insects in tobacco and one of the main ways of controlling disease was cover crop and rotations.

Further emphasis on tobacco production was given in the form of leaflets sent to all producers in the county on each phase of production. These leaflets were sent on timely basis. All available information was also put on the weekly radio program and in weekly news articles.

The Extension Service cooperated with Soil Conservation Service and Soil Conservation District in recommending and carrying out tobacco rotations.

Visible results were obtained from the fact that more people are using cover crops and setting up rotation systems for tobacco. More farms are also able to grow the new varieties and produce a tobacco that the market wants by using better cultural practices. There is still, however, a long way to go in this particular item and it is a limit, of course, to where the tobacco grower can go unless he has a better variety.

#### B. Forestry

The interest in forestry in the county has been intensified over the last couple of years, partly because of the cut in income to the farmer through lower prices, increased costs, and dry weather. One of the main problems facing our forests in the county is to get more of the

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### I. Description of County Organization

The Extension Service of Brunswick County consists of county agent, assistant county agent to do mainly 4-H club work, assistant county agent one-third time (vacant) for tobacco work, home demonstration agent, and stenographer. The negro farm agents maintain separate offices in Brunswick county. Work in so far as possible between the white county Extension Service and the negro Extension Service is coordinated.

### II. Types of Agriculture

There are approximately 2,650 farms in Brunswick County. The average size farm in the county is about 97 acres. This is approximately 11 acres less than the average size farm in 1950. Farming is generally becoming more diversified with the addition of poultry and livestock. This is being forced to some extent by the decrease in acreage of allotted crops.

Allotted crops in the county are broken down approximately as follows; 6,500 acres of tobacco; 2,000 acres of cotton; 900 acres of peanuts; and 3,000 acres of wheat.

There are 48 Grade A dairies consisting of approximately 5,000 head of dairy cattle including herd replacements. Grade A milk accounts for all income from milk in the county except what little milk and butter farmers might sell their neighbors. Over-all dairy income of the county is approximately 600 thousand dollars per year.

Beef cattle numbers are approximately the same at 6,000 head. Very little change has been noticed in the number of beef cattle in the last three years.

### III. Planning the Extension Program

The planning of the Agricultural Extension program in the county is carried on with the aid of the different commodity committees of farm men and women.

### IV. Activities Receiving Major Emphasis

#### A. Tobacco

The biggest problem in tobacco remains the production of the quality tobacco that the market demands. For the past two years we have seen the shift from the so called cigarette tobacco to the heavier type. Farmers are not satisfied with the quality of tobacco and are striving to produce a heavier type for the market, however with the tremendous amount of disease during the last several years, the majority of the farmers are forced to produce a resistant tobacco which under production producers here to fore have found will not give the quality that the manufacturers wish.

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1956

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

of

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Miss Jessie Sadler, Stenographer  
Brunswick County  
Lawrenceville, Virginia

# Annual Report

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service



1956

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Brunswick  
county