

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1960

AFFORDTOWN

County

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IV. DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF APPOMATTOX COUNTY

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

343 square miles of gently rolling soil forms the land area. Soil types vary, as is peculiar to the many counties located in Piedmont Virginia. Soils range from Hivassee, a transported soil of streams, to the heavy Davidson, found in the northwest section and interspaced with Lloyd, Cecil, Appling, Madison, Tatum and Nason. Forest area covers approximately 61% of the county.

Appomattox County is served by the main line of the Norfolk and Western Railway. Route 460 is the predominant highway running from Lynchburg, 21 miles west, to Farville, 28 miles east, and in addition, Routes 24 and 26 service areas to the north and south.

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

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

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

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

V. EXTENSION ORGANIZATION

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

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

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

The missing link in the county is dynamic rural leadership.

VI. PROGRAM EMPHASIS IN AGRICULTURE

A. AGRONOMY

Agronomy, the base of all agriculture operations, is moving in a direct path toward more efficiency.

1. Fertilizer: Looking back at the last five years, there is evidence that fertilizers containing higher amounts of nitrogen are being used. The fertilizer is being purchased to more nearly meet the needs of the crop. Greater amounts are being applied to cultivated crops and pastures. In 1960, 3 tons of fertilizer were bought containing an insecticide for control of soil borne insects that affect corn. This reflects the value of demonstrations over the past several years showing the value of soil insecticides.
2. Alfalfa-Tobacco Demonstrations: Two farmers are participating in a four-year study of an alfalfa-tobacco rotation demonstration. Purpose of this demonstration is to determine if alfalfa can be substituted for red clover which is now the conventional rotation legume.

If alfalfa can be substituted satisfactorily, the tobacco farmer would have a higher yielding crop of higher quality forage that would have more soil conservation value. Since alfalfa will supply a greater amount of nitrogen than red clover, less manure would be needed on the tobacco, making it available to corn land and thus, theoretically, at least more corn per acre. The alfalfa being of higher quality than red clover, it would seem that dairy cattle would issue a larger flow of milk. Although this demonstration is based on a number of "ifs", and is theoretical to some extent, there seems to be enough facts present to indicate that it might well work. Some farmers say that tobacco should never follow alfalfa, however it is felt that a lack of potash may account for unsuccessful experience of the past. The two participating in this demonstration market manufactured milk, which will help evaluate some of the items mentioned above. A fertilizer company is supplying one-half the fertilizer for seeding, top-dressing and growing of the tobacco. The company has indicated considerable interest in the demonstration since both crops are large users of fertilizer. Farmers participating are Shelby Tucker and Jim Franklin.

3. Small Grain-Nitrogen: Two farmers, Fred Jones and George Carson worked with extension and a nitrogen company in testing nitrogen materials on wheat. No significant results were obtained.

4. Seedsmen School: Ten seedsmen from this county and Lynchburg were invited to a meeting with Harold Potts of V.P.I., to discuss the need of stocking good seed, the need for stocking seeds adaptable to this area, and why good seeds are good business. Subjects also covered were certification standards and the germination testing service that is available.

5. Tennessee Valley Authority: Two new test demonstrators were added this year, Webb Brothers and Ed Harvey. Two who have been with this program

for two years are J. S. Caldwell, Jr., and Walter Henry. In early spring, soil samples were taken on each field of the new demonstrators; in the late fall or early winter, the other two will be completed. The test-demonstration program is now at a higher level than ever before in that it is coming closer to meeting the needs of the farmers and T.V.A. Prior to this year, the county had not used its allocation of fertilizer - this has now been corrected.

6. Alfalfa Weevil Control: Once again Appomattox County was one of five counties in the state which worked with Dr. Jack Bishop in an evaluation test plot of insecticides used at varying amounts for alfalfa weevil control. The plot was located on John C. Cole's farm.

7. New cash Crop Possible: The Virginia Fire-Cured Tobacco Cooperative owns warehouses in Lynchburg, Farmville and Blackstone that are in use for six to eight weeks during the year. They feel there might be some use made of them that would return additional income and at the same time, render a service to the farmers of the tobacco area. The Appomattox agent suggested the possible use for drying-storage, and marketing high quality alfalfa hay. A survey of Appomattox dairy farmers was done to determine if the need existed. A need was expressed and indicated that such an operation would not only serve them, but would act as another cash crop for smaller farmers. The management of the co-op is working on the details. In another year, definite action will be taken to attempt or discard the project.

8. Hay Sampling for Residues: The agent spent some time with a dairy inspector from the Virginia Department of Agriculture taking samples of first cuttings of alfalfa to be analyzed for chemical residues. Results of these tests have not been received.

9. Silage Club: For the second year, membership in the 20-Ton Silage Club was extended to silage producers. Only one indicated an interest, however, it was not measured as it had to be planted three times and the grower did not think that the time necessary to complete the job could be justified.

10. Seed Certification: One farmer, John Gunter, seeded two bushels of Registered Coker 47-27 wheat in the fall of 1960 for certification. Should this seeding meet certification standards, it could be the beginning of an extensive certification program for this farmer. He has been the distributor for a commercial corn company for several years. The addition of certified small grain that he can produce on his farm is a "natural".

11. Small Grain Variety Demonstrations: Four farmers have a demonstration with Coker 47-27 wheat, a new variety that has shown up quite well at the Charlotte Experiment Station. This variety is on the recommended list and has not been previously seeded in this county.

Three of these same farmers with seven others, have seeded a new variety of Barley - Davis. This likewise has shown up well at the Charlotte Station and is on the recommended list but not used before in this County. Considerable difficulty was encountered in obtaining this seed as it was not available in the state. It is hoped that in the future, the seed personnel at V.P.L. can supply the agents of the state with a list of sources of seed that are being recommended as it is of little value to recommend a seed that is not available to at least a few farmers in a county.

12. Red Clover Variety Demonstration: A new variety of red clover, Chesapeake, was seeded by two farmers in the Spring. This clover has consistently given greater yields than Virginia Adapted that has been used in this area for the past 20-30 years. It is hoped some comparative yields can be obtained next year.

13. Horizontal Silos: For five years the agent has tried to effect the construction of some horizontal silos using concrete. This year, two bunk silos were constructed with concrete floors, one trench silo with a concrete floor, and one farmer stacked his silage along the horizontal. All four were covered with plastic. The bunk silos are arranged for self-feeding. One of the great needs of the county is in the area of silage. Oftentimes, hay quality is low resulting from either weather or cultural practices. Silage, when stored properly can be the answer to pasture shortage in summer and hay shortage in winter.

B. TOBACCO

Dark fire-cured tobacco is much like the old horse that had served the family well for many years. Yet, when modern tractors appeared on the scene, the horse remained and usually was considered more of a liability than an asset. Controls have cut the acreage to such a level that is practically impossible for the tobacco farmer to earn a reasonable livelihood from tobacco. Some still try to hold to this as their principal source of income. Those that do find they are low, and below the average in farm income.

1. Aromatic Tobacco: Six meetings were held in the county with forty-seven attending, to hear aromatic tobacco as a possible source of additional income, discussed. In 1959, two grew this tobacco. In 1960, there were no growers.
2. "W" Tobacco: During the last marketing season, a number of buyers and warehousemen were concerned about the amount of moisture in Type 21 tobacco. They indicated that their net per 100 pounds of tobacco was 79.3 pounds. As a result of publicity throughout the tobacco belt, the yield was upped 3%.

Some few farmers carried it too far and tobacco didn't look good on the warehouse floor. Yet, those who continued to apply excessive water, lost as much as 11 cents per pound. There is no support price for "V" tobacco.

3. Extra-Qured Variety Demonstration: John Gunter handled the variety demonstration for the first time this year. Dry weather at a critical time reduced his poundage, yet quality appears to be good. He seems to be enthusiastic about this demonstration and has requested to work with it another year.

C. DAIRY

Dairying is little different from any other business. This year has seen some go out of the business, some change ownership and others come in.

Dairy farmers as a group, have the highest income of any other commodity group in the county.

Bulk shipment of milk has brought new problems and advantages not previously experienced. In previous years, should any one cow produce off-flavor milk, it affected one cow, but now it's an entire tank and sometimes, as experienced this fall, fellow producers milk. These problems have had their immediate financial repercussions but the long range problem is how much base would be lost. These off-flavors can be attributed to the extreme fall lush grazing-silage-wild garlic.

Three pipeline milkers have been installed. Certainly they come closer to meeting the needs of automation when used in conjunction with bulk tanks.

1. Healthful Control Program: Dairymen have received monthly newsletters on mastitis prevention, and barn charts have been placed in all barns explaining proper milking procedure. This disease kills more cows than any other.

2. DNA: Record programs participated in and used, are perhaps one of the weakest points in the Appomattox dairy story. One man started testing in 1960. The number enrolled in any testing program is now three.

3. Manufactured Survey: Manufactured milk producers are the most difficult to work with. Their income is low and they fail to see how improved practices will up their total income. The survey conducted state-wide, when published, will be interesting to compare with those in Appomattox County.

4. Dairy Short Course: This Short Course cannot be fully evaluated in this report as it is scheduled for the last three days in November and the first two in December. It is a new attempt at bringing in a large number of dairymen and presenting them with the best information that can be obtained on the subject. The dairy committee planned the program as to subject matter. Should this event prove successful, a similar event may well be in the making for other commodity groups.

D. LIVESTOCK

Appomattox should be a feeder producing county - feeder calves and feeder pigs. The topography as indicated on page 1, lends itself to the production of high quality forage. Land that is now in row crops could best be suited for grazing.

1. Feeder Calf Sale: 307 calves were marketed through the organized sales this year. This is the largest number ever sold in such sales from this county. Eight producers sold calves through the sale for the first time. For some, it was selling only one or two calves, but it's a start. Health requirements are not as strict for yearling cattle as for calves. This "avenue" of introduction seems to be the most logical way to show the value of selling cattle the "organized way". A great deal of work remains to be

done in this area. It is conceivable that a goal of 75% of the counties calf production be set for marketing in this manner in the years ahead.

2. Feeder Pig Sale: Two feeder pig sales were held during the year, one in December 1959 and the other in November, 1960. The first sale had a little more than 1000 pigs sold, which indicated farmer interest. They were sold at the lowest point in the finished hog market cycle in 1959, thus a very low sale with many discouraged consigners. Two efforts early in the year to hold sales did not materialize. The November sale was held with only a few over 200 pigs being consigned. The sale committee felt it was important to hold this sale regardless of number of marketing of pigs through an organized sale was to live and grow. In the December sale, 146 pigs were consigned from this county. None in the November sale.

3. Wool Pool: The counties wool clip was marketed with the Lynchburg Pool. For the first time in many years, the pool's wool was offered for sealed bids. Producers realized several additional cents through this procedure.

4. Brucellosis Testing Program: The testing program which began in 1959 is nearly completed and would have been except that the resident veterinarian left the county. A state veterinarian has come in to complete the job. It should be completed within the next several months.

5. Grub Control Demonstration: Tom Davidson supplied 20 calves to conduct research with new chemicals (Dylox and Buslene) in cooperation with the research entomologist. The new chemicals were also applied by a new method merely pouring the material along the top line of the calf. These were systemic materials. Results will be ready in February.

F. FORESTRY

Here it not for the pulp wood markets readily accessible to this area,

many farm operators would find it tough going. Pulp is the difference between staying in business or getting out for many. Markets for hardwood are beginning to open up - more are needed. Hardwoods are the predominant tree on many acres. Its slow growth and often poor quality make it mandatory to replace with pine plantings. During the past planting season over 1,000,000 seedlings were planted by private land owners. This is the first year individuals exceeded this point.

1. Christmas Tree Demonstration Plot: A demonstration plot was laid out, seedlings were planted, but survival was zero. A new planting will be made this planting season.

F. OTHER AREAS

1. Institute of Rural Affairs: For the first time since this agent has been in the county, Appomattox was represented at the Institute of Rural Affairs. Five men attended for one day. All indicated a real interest in what took place and felt it most informative and helpful.

2. String Bean Variety Demonstration: Leroy Smith, a hobby gardener, cooperated in evaluating five varieties of string beans (pole type). A check variety, Kentucky Wonder, was planted with these experimental lines. Only two seemed adaptable to this area. Although there apparently was no increased yield or quality over the check plot.

3. Fire Blight: A heavy outbreak of Fire Blight affected many trees and plants throughout the county. The kill was 100% on some small trees and the toll heavy on many large ones.

4. Weed Control Demonstrations: Two weed control demonstrations were set up during the year, one using granulated 2,4-D on water lilies at Holiday Lake. The results of this treatment cannot be determined as the water

in the lake during the winter months. Next spring, some idea can be had as to its effectiveness.

The other demonstration dealt with weed control in corn. A field having several different types of weeds was used. Dalapon and Atrazine were the compounds used with excellent results. Eighteen people saw the demonstration. The grower indicates he plans to use these materials extensively another year.

5. Greenhouse Construction: The sale of plants is one way a few families can increase their income. H. S. Jones Jr., has built two greenhouses during the year for plant production. The second was built following the close of the plant season. Specialists have been most helpful in working out some problems with the agent that were encountered.

6. Agent Training: Considerable time has been spent during the final half of the year working with new agents. A new home demonstration agent and assistant county agent are attempting to learn the county, its problems, its people, and developing a program with the people that will meet their needs.

G. FARM BUSINESS

This area of farm business accounts has received greater emphasis than in previous years. Nine are participating in the V.P.I. Mail-in-Record System. This has been a good start but more farmers need to utilize this method of analyzing farm accounts and use them for income tax purposes. 1960 represented a 300% increase over 1959. It is hoped that a similar increase can be made in 1961.

VII. PROGRAM EMPHASIS IN 4-H PROGRAM

The 4-H program in the county has a total enrollment of 504 members

of which 270 are boys. The boys carried a total of 521 projects, and 223 boys completed a total of 261 projects, or 50% project completions. The in-school clubs in the elementary grades 4th through 7th was composed of 17 clubs. At the county high school there is one senior club composed of members in the 8th through 12th grades. There were seven community 4-H clubs in the county. The agent and leaders met the in-school clubs monthly to conduct the business and project work. The community clubs are met by the agents only when they have a definite part on the program, otherwise, the adult leaders and members conduct the meeting.

There are 1347 boys and girls between the ages of 10-21 in the county. The average age of 4-H members is about 12 years with an average tenure of about three and one half years membership in 4-H.

1. In-School Clubs: The entire club membership votes on the in-school project they wish to carry on the junior and senior level. At the annual project selection meeting, the county council, which is composed of all officers of all 4-H in-school clubs, reviews the voting. The project with the greatest number of votes is selected as the in-school project for all school club members. The in-school project for the 5th through 7th grades was the 4-H Electric Project, Unit I. A total of 153 boys completed the in-school project. Ten Senior Club members were enrolled in the 4-H Career Exploration Project and 5 boys completed this project. The 4th grade in-school clubs are enrolled in the 4-H Entomology Project, which is a special project including 4-H orientation supervised by the county agent.

2. 4-H Honor Club: The Honor Club met twice during the past year, once to re-organize, and once for the purpose of making plans for a dance

to be held for the high school students, as the main fund raising project for the year. The dance was most successful. The Honor Club which is composed of fourteen 4-H club members plans to be a more active part of the 4-H program for the coming year.

3. 4-H Camps

a. Holiday Lake District 4-H Camp - 19 boys attended Holiday Lake Camp.

Attendance is limited to those members completing record books as has been the policy in the past and will be the policy in the future.

b. Conservation Camp, Virginia Beach - one boy attended.

c. 4-H Short Course - three boys attended State Short Course at V.P.I. this past year.

4. Share the Fun Program - The county-wide share the fun program was held in February and consisted of twenty three different acts. A loving cup was presented to Ima Trent as winner in the junior division. This cup is to be used on a rotating basis - anyone who wins three consecutive years is to have permanent possession of the cup. Ima also represented Appomattox County at the annual meeting of the Southside Electric Cooperative at which time a special program featuring area 4-H members was presented.

5. Tractor Maintenance School - As a special interest group, a tractor maintenance school was conducted with machinery and fuel dealers cooperating. Pulliam Motor Sales and Appomattox Truck and Tractor Company furnished the facilities, instruction, equipment, films and refreshments. In addition, they furnished tractors for the county tractor driving contest. Twelve boys participated in the program. Pat Carson represented the county at the district contest.

6. Sears Bvark Project: Five 4-H boys participated in the special wire project sponsored by Sears-Roebuck and Company. Winners in the pig chain were 1st-Johnny Farrar, 2nd-Scottie Morris and 3rd-Sammy Martin. Two of the boys experienced bad luck. One pig failed to breed and the other pig died.

7. Seale 4-H Electric Congress - Danny Hernali and Gray Holland were judged county winners in the 4-H Electric Project and attended the State 4-H Electric Congress held in Richmond.

8. Junior Forestry Contest: In cooperation with the Appomattox Lions Club a Junior Forestry Contest was held in the county for the second year. Open field and spot planting were used. Thirteen members participated in the program and received tree seedlings. The three winners were 1st-Cena Chernault, 2nd-Clem O'Brien, and 3-rd- Kenneth Wilkins.

9. 4-H District Contests - Appomattox County was well represented at the District Contests held in Farmville in April. 4-H members participated in the following contests and placed as shown: Pat Carson, tractor driving, 11th place; Betty Alvis and Sandra Straten, egg grading, 3rd place; Jimmy Martin, forestry demonstration, 2nd place; and John O. Harrison, livestock conservation demonstration, 1st place.

10. Fairs

a. Farmville Five-County Fair - Exhibits at the Farmville Fair were of better quality than for past years. Scottie Morris one of the Sears Project members showed his Hampshire Gilt and was awarded the Grand Championship Ribbon in his class. Jimmy Martin won a \$5.00 award and First place Ribbon for his Forestry exhibit. Other county 4-H members, boys and girls were awarded a total of 60 premiums and ribbons.

b. Lynchburg Farm Show - Garden, poultry, field crops and entomology exhibits were entered in the Lynchburg Show. Ann Deppay, a member of Oakville 4-II Club won 2 grand championships on her poultry exhibit. Barbara Lee won the Kewanee Club Trophy for having the highest number of potatoes for an exhibitor. She had a total of 72 potatoes.

11. 4-II Community Clubs - The organization of community clubs was again given special emphasis in the county. Seven such clubs are now in existence, however, the Oakville-In-school Club and the Lee Junior Community Club are in the process of combining to form the Oakville 4-II Community Club. Club members in both these clubs live in the same community and it is felt that this combination will add to a better club organization. The Lee Club had a small membership and leaders were hard to find. In the re-organized Oakville Community club, leaders have been secured as follows: 4 organizational leaders, 2 foods leaders, 2 food preservation leaders, 3 clothing leaders, 3 poultry project leaders, 3 livestock project leaders, 3 garden project leaders, 2 field crops leaders, 2 wildlife project leaders and 2 forestry project leaders. The project leaders live in the community and are selected on the basis of their familiarity with these fields. They have expressed a desire for training in each phase of their project work and plans are under way to conduct this training.

This Oakville Club is used as an example to explain the set-up in the various community clubs in the county. The club meets once a month and meetings usually last two hours or more. In this club, meetings are held at the Oakville School. Parents and project leaders as well as 4-II members attend the meetings.

The officers of the club, organizational leaders and agents met to

plan their program for the coming year. Entomology was selected as the club project for this club and it is carried by all members. In the monthly program, along with the demonstration on the Entomology project, emphasis is also given to demonstrations in the other 4-H projects carried by these club members. One month is set aside in each club, usually the month of August, at which time a tour of all club members projects is held.

This method of planning community club programs seems to be working very satisfactorily. It is felt that in these community clubs more time is available for additional 4-H instruction, and this addition of time will prove beneficial toward improving the overall 4-H program in the county.

12. Rural Life Sunday: Rural Life Sunday was observed by the Hebron Community 4-H Club. 4-H members conducted the entire church program.

13. 4-H Awards Banquet - The climax of the years' work was the 4-H Achievement Banquet sponsored by the Farmers National Bank. It was held at the Appomattox Elementary School Cafeteria, December 5, 1959. 55 4-H Club members were presented awards. They, and one parent of each attended the banquet. Dean L. B. Dietrick spoke on the topic of "Leadership." The bank has agreed to sponsor the awards banquet again this year.

14. Outlook - The outlook for future 4-H Club work in the county is very optimistic. Concentration will be on organizing more community clubs. The groups are smaller and there is more time to give additional training and attention to individual needs. Parent support is greater and the quantity and quality of work increases.

15. Evaluation: This agent feels that whenever there is a change in personnel during the year's program, the new agent must face the problem of learning not only the county, but the interests and habits of its people. There is a definite period when interest in a program will reach a low point due to the change in leadership. This agent feels that the past four and one-half months have shown an increased interest in the 4-H program on the part of members, parents and leaders. It is the belief of this agent that since he has now hurdled through the hardest part of any job - becoming adjusted and accepted - the future for 4-H programs in this county is bright, and much will be accomplished.

VIII. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The professional training meetings were attended by the agent and one by the assistant. Agent attended Communications School, Forestry School and a meeting of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. The latter was by far the most helpful in supplying new ideas - recognition of new problems that will be facing extension workers in the coming years - and, developing an appreciation of the excellent facilities and relationship with the administrative staff. The assistant agent attended an In-Service Training School for one week at V.P.I. when policies and procedures were outlined.

IX. RELATIONSHIPS

An excellent working relationship has been maintained with other agencies and business people. The County Board of Supervisors has been particularly fine to work with.

Some examples of relationship and cooperation with businessmen in the area are outlined as follows:

Coleman Feed Store, Appomattox Farmers Supply, Roanoke City Mills - supplied refreshments and awards for Dairy Short Course.

Farmers National Bank - sponsored 4-H awards banquet.

Coker Seed Company - supplied wheat seed for variety demonstrations.

Robinson Funeral Home - supplied calendars for 4-H'ers.

Bank of Appomattox - sponsored weekly radio program.

Hercall's Cleaners - provided refreshments for 4-H officer training program.

DeVal, Serge, Universal Milk Machine Companies, supplied factory personnel and equipment for Dairy Short Course.

Appomattox Truck & Tractor, Pulliam Motor Sales - furnished facilities and instruction for 4-H Tractor Maintenance Program.

Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company - supplied and will supply for a four-year period, one-half fertilizer needs of two alfalfa-tobacco demonstrations.

Appomattox Hardware Company - supplied awards for county tractor driver contest.