

2,000 people viewing the exhibits. The exhibits included cattle, hogs, sheep, crops, clothing and canning. The fair was held jointly with the FFA, FFA and 4-H members. This was the second county-wide Youth Fair held in the county. The Youth Fair included judging of the exhibits, annual 4-H achievement awards program, horse show and tractor drivers' contest.

(1) Speaking at evening classes for farmers.

(2) Holding a county Youth Fair for 4-H, FFA and FHA members

C. General Routine of Work

1. Situation

We accept our responsibilities to assist all county people to reach a higher standard of living through the performance of important jobs from time to time.

2. Methods with Results

- a. We have made 1,164 farm visits and received 1,405 office callers. We have made or received 4,754 telephone calls, and have prepared 49 news articles, 9 TV programs, and mailed 689 circular letters. We have distributed 5,600 copies of educational leaflets, bulletins and circulars.
- b. Assisted with state Horticultural and state Dairymen's Conventions held in Roanoke.
- c. Served on committees for the Lynchburg Farm and Home Show, Botetourt County Youth Fair, Roanoke Area Fat Stock Show and Sale, and Feeder Calf and Yearling Steer Sales.
- d. Agents have judged for livestock shows and served on committees for 4-H district contests and many other local committee assignments.

VII. ONE OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT

The agents felt that the biggest accomplishment again this year was working with the Youth Fair in the county. Home economics and agricultural teachers along with the agents worked hard on this problem. The fair was held in September for two days with over

of community clubs.

- b. Two community clubs were assisted in planning their program for the year.
- c. The county and area contests were discussed with the local clubs.

B. Cooperation with Other Agencies

1. Goal

To cooperate with other agencies in furthering the best agricultural interest in the county.

2. Methods with Results

a. Agents worked closely with ASC committee in:

- (1) Helping to conduct the educational part of the program
- (2) Stickleweed eradication program
- (3) Meeting monthly with county committee
- (4) Working with the committee on setting soil bank rates and recommending practices for the county.

b. Worked with soil conservation district supervisors by:

- (1) Helping the district to publish 20th anniversary report. Over \$800 were raised.
- (2) Attended regular monthly meetings of district and helped with activities. Worked closely with conservation technicians on farm problems.

c. The agents have assisted the FHA supervisor by giving information and assisting their clients with farm problems.

d. Worked with vocational agricultural teachers by:

due to the fact that part of the year we were without a home agent, so the men agents were kept busier than usual; therefore, adequate time was not available for publishing a yearbook.

VI. MINOR PROJECTS

A. Community Improvement

1. Situation

There are four Community Improvement Clubs in the county. Two clubs competed in county and area contests.

2. Goals

- a. Assisting in organizing Community Improvement Clubs.
- b. Use Community Improvement Clubs in county and community problems.

3. Methods

- a. Visit in at least two communities for the purpose of encouraging communities to organize clubs.
- b. If interest is found, try to organize clubs.
- c. Help clubs to decide their greatest needs.
- d. Offer assistance to help carry out the objectives they have set up.
- e. Cooperate with the Chamber of Commerce in the program.
- f. Discuss county and area contests with each club.

4. Results

- a. One community was visited and encouraged to organize a new club. The community folks were told about the work

- the various committees assigned to do so. The County Council met for its fall meeting, and the executive committee met when called.
- e. The leaders and executive committee were encouraged to attend and help plan the 4-H programs and activities.
 - f. Due to an accident, we did not have any 4-H'ers attend Conservation Camp at Camp Farrar .
 - g. Each All Star was notified of the interstate All Star Conference. The All Stars held their annual banquet at the Home Demonstration Club House. Nine All Stars, leaders and parents attended the district All Star picnic held at the Peaks of Otter.
 - h. Several demonstrations were given by senior 4-H members in their club during the year. Our county-wide project, "electricity", lent itself very nicely to demonstrations, so we had a good number of excellent demonstrations in our school clubs by the 4-H'ers.
 - i. Botetourt county sent the largest delegation to Short Course it has ever sent. There was only one county in the state that had a larger delegation. We had three judging teams that won trips to Short Course and 4 individuals who won free trips.
 - j. Four groups of club members appeared on TV station WSIS, and gave talks and demonstrations.
 - k. Plans were made for 4-H yearbook, but were not completed

have 4 or more project leaders. The girls have been extremely fortunate in securing good leaders in sewing and cooking. We have the highest number of adult leaders now that we have ever had.

h. Tractor, livestock, poultry and grine projects were scored once this year. The competition was extremely keen due to more leaders assisting in project instruction.

5. Methods Used to Increase Leadership Efficiency and Activity with Results

a. This year's WISB scrapbook contest was the keenest ever.

Four clubs participated. The clubs placed as follows:

Fincastle Sr., first; Trinity, second; Daleville Sr., third and Lauderdale fourth. The greater interest in the contest was due to more and better leadership in the community clubs.

b. Ten 4-H members entered record books in the state contest.

Suzie Tyler won a trip to the National 4-H Club Congress on her recreation activities, but was unable to attend.

Dairy, Land appreciation, livestock and poultry teams entered district judging contests. All teams except the dairy team won the right to enter the state judging contests. Two

members of the poultry team won all-expense-paid trips to the Virginia Poultry Federation meeting.

c. Sixty six 4-H members attended 4-H camp at Holiday Lake along with approximately 123 4-H'ers from Roanoke county.

Several 4-H Clubs gave scholarships to members attending.

d. Goals set up by the County Council were carried out by

- held for all boys and girls interested.
- c. A tractor maintenance school was held during February and March for 6 consecutive weeks. Each week a different phase of tractor maintenance was discussed and instruction given by a mechanic at the tractor dealer's place of business where the meeting was being held. The tractor dealers who sponsored the tractor maintenance also gave the boys a picnic free of charge. Their ticket to the picnic was a completed record book.
- d. The two-day Electric School which was planned had to be cut to one day due to bad weather. Representatives from APCo. and VEPCo. assisted the agents in the one-day school. Approximately 70 boys and girls attended. Six outstanding demonstrations were given by the 4-H'ers. Fifty three lamps were constructed.
- e. News articles of a 4-H nature appeared in the newspaper almost every week during the year. The big improvement has been news stories written by 4-H boys and girls on their projects along with pictures.
- f. Most 4-H'ers were visited at least once this year either by a leader or agent. Since two thirds of our clubs are school clubs, it is difficult to locate and visit all 4-H members.
- g. The number of adult 4-H leaders has increased more this year than in the past two years. Some community clubs

- h. An effort was made to give more publicity to 4-H members, leaders and their work. Each club was encouraged to report on each meeting through the newspaper. Each week the 4-H agent tried to have a news story in the county newspaper written by a 4-H'er with an accompanying picture.
 - i. Each 4-H'er was encouraged to tell other boys and girls about 4-H work, and try to get them to join a 4-H Club.
 - j. National 4-H Week was observed by 4-H'ers putting up posters and exhibits. The main exhibit was installed in a show window in Roanoke. Each club took an active part in national 4-H Week.
4. Methods to Increase Project Instruction with Results
- a. Rather than hold a dairy school this year the agents visited each 4-H dairy project and showed them how to fit and show their animals. The principles of feeding and managing dairy animals were discussed. All dairy projects were scored during November. Awards were made possible for the 3 outstanding projects by the county DHIA.
 - b. In an effort to create more interest in baby beef project work, a tour was conducted during February. After the tour was conducted, the agents discussed management problems such as feeding, controlling parasites and diseases, dehorning, castrating, vaccinating and fitting and showing. All other livestock projects were visited and individual problems were discussed with each. A livestock judging school was

and invited all boys and girls to join the 4-H Club. Adult leaders have encouraged boys and girls to join their project groups and clubs. Through the adult leaders we have greatly increased the 4-H enrollment in the community clubs.

- d. The agents when visiting farmers and homemakers have encouraged them to assist their children and others as well in their 4-H work. The agents have also taken every opportunity to speak before civic organizations, clubs and other groups about 4-H work and encouraged each to help, not only when called upon, but to volunteer their services as well to the largest youth organization in the world.
- e. The 4-H program of work was planned and carried out by the 4-H'ers, adult leaders, and agents assigned to do so at the County Council meetings.
- f. The leaders, older 4-H'ers and agents visited the 4-H'ers encouraging them to do a good job in their project work and complete each project started. Each 4-H'er visited was encouraged to attend his club meeting regularly, and take part in all 4-H events.
- g. In an effort to hold the present 4-H members and his parents' interest, the leaders and agents visited their homes and assisted them with the 4-H members' project work. Events such as the county Youth Fair, county picnic and tours were held to create and hold the interest of the 4-H'er.

- b. Increase project instruction
 - c. Increase leadership efficiency and activity
3. Methods to Increase Enrollment with Results
- a. This past year we had seven 4-H Clubs which met out of school. Each of these clubs had at least one adult leader. The members of these clubs are not only active in their club and project work, but are also very active in community activities such as giving fruit baskets to the sick, painting mail boxes, putting up new 4-H road signs and many more. The members of these community clubs are also the leaders at most county-wide activities such as picnics, tours, achievement days, County Council meetings and the Electric School. Although the number of community clubs has dropped from 9 to 7, the actual number of members has increased.
 - b. A greater understanding of 4-H has been made possible by visiting the teachers and principals of each school in advance of our first 4-H meeting of the year, and explaining the purpose and plan of our coming year's work. This has greatly increased their cooperation and in many cases they are willing to help the 4-H'ers plan each month's meeting. The school board and superintendent of schools have been very cooperative in allowing 4-H'ers to attend important 4-H events during the school session.
 - c. In an effort to increase our enrollment, the agents visited each school's fifth grade and explained the 4-H program,

the past year have to date developed into Farm and Home Management families. Continued assistance and follow-up visits will be made in the future. It is expected that many of these families will come in the program at a later date.

G. 4-H

1. Situation

The Botetourt county 4-H organization follows the pattern used in the state. The County Council is the head of all 4-H activities in the local clubs. We began the year with 31 4-H Clubs, 24 of which are school clubs, and 7 community clubs. The Home Club members plus the 7 officers elected by each club make up the County Council. This year 714 members were enrolled in 4-H Club work.

The County Council has not functioned as well as it could have. The County Council officers have not been as enthusiastic in performing their duties as they might have. The majority of the goals that were set up by the County Council have been completed, or are in the process of completion. Approximately 80% of the County Council members attended the fall meeting.

The All Star chapter which usually meets at least once each year has difficulty in planning its meetings because about half of its members are in college or teaching outside the county.

Five All Stars, Extension agents and parents attended the All Star picnic held at the Peaks of Otter.

2. Goals

a. Increase enrollment

is to render constructive assistance to 100 families in 1959.

3. Methods with Results

Farm and home visits continued to be the chief method used in doing Farm and Home Management work. Assistance has been rendered in most fields of Extension work. A total of 84 families are now being worked with. A folder is kept on file in the Extension office giving bench mark information, family goals, wishes, etc. on each family worked with for use of the agents. These folders are revised as family conditions change. Management work involving the farm and home as a unit is being done with these families. The degree of participation in the program varies from family to family; however, the over-all results have been gratifying to agents.

During the year 342 farm and home visits have been made. The initial visit in most cases was to assist with some specific problem pressing at the moment, such as canning, fertilizing or feeding. Agents have attempted to follow up these visits and broaden the assistance given to include management of the farm and home as a unit. These families have become more familiar with the work of the Extension service and now ask for and render assistance to the over-all Extension program more freely.

Work through organized Extension activities such as commodity groups, Home Demonstration Clubs, community clubs and 4-H Clubs has greatly aided agents in making contacts and enrolling families in Farm and Home Management work.

As might be expected, only part of the families contacted during

4. Results

- a. Poultrymen in the county and surrounding counties have held meetings at which time they have received the latest poultry information. The counties immediately surrounding Roanoke are working on an organization through which they can discuss and learn more about their business as a poultryman.
- b. The agents have worked with all phases of the poultry industry particularly on marketing and the poultry outlook information.
- c. Poultrymen have been mailed pamphlets monthly pertaining to their industry, namely "Poultry Pellets" and "Peep and Moo".

F. Farm and Home Management

1. Situation

Seventy seven farm families are presently enrolled in the Farm and Home Management program. Approximately 100 additional families have been assisted with problems. More detailed planning will be done with some of these families in the coming year. Detailed farm and home plans have been developed for families requesting them. Families have been enrolled from all parts of the county and all economical levels.

2. Goals

The objective of Farm and Home Management is to assist farm families in analyzing their resources and opportunities. Our goal

during the year. All of the programs for the year were planned by the committee, and important topics were presented at each meeting.

- b. A tour and meeting were held in June at one of the local orchards.
- c. Orchardists were visited by agents during the year particularly during the growing and packing season.
- d. The latest spray information was sent to orchardists.
- e. Fruit growers were assisted in trying to find a market for canning apples. The county organization worked closely with the state fruit growers in trying to get an established price on processing apples.

E. Poultry

1. Situation

The poultry business has expanded rapidly since the war, particularly broilers. There is a dressing plant located in Botetourt county. The recent low prices have slowed increased production.

2. Goals

- a. To help the poultryman produce more efficiently.
- b. To encourage larger volume production per farm.

3. Methods

- a. Encourage small flock owners to increase their production through personal contact.
- b. Work with producers, hatcherymen and processors to help put the broiler program on a sound basis.
- c. To help the commercial egg producer in production and marketing.

bred artificially by Ro-Bot Breeders and Curtis Improved Stud Service.

D. Fruit Growers

1. Situation

In the past years the production of apples and peaches has increased while the number of fruit growers has decreased. Most of the fruit is produced by 20 producers. Fruit has not increased in price according to the increase in the cost of production.

2. Goals

- a. To keep growers informed on new market and production practices.
- b. To get better control of insects and diseases.
- c. Help farmers decrease the cost of production by 5¢ per bushel this year.
- d. To market fruit more profitably.

3. Methods

- a. Hold monthly fruit growers' meetings to study marketing and production problems.
- b. Conduct pruning and spraying demonstrations.
- c. Hold an educational tour in June.
- d. Help growers with individual orchard problems.
- e. Send out latest spray recommendations.
- f. Work with producers in getting a processing plant in the area.

4. Results

- a. Nine regular monthly fruit growers' meetings were held

the business of the organization.

- b. Conduct dairy schools and tours on management, feeding and raising forage crops.
- c. Work with dairymen in planning a good over-all farm and livestock plan to enable them to produce their maximum of milk.
- d. Work with Ro-Bot Breeders to encourage more artificial breeding.
- e. Cooperate with the Roanoke Milk Producers' Association in helping to improve market situations.

4. Results

- a. Twenty four herds are on DHIA and owner-sampler programs.
As a result of working closely with farmers and explaining the program, three other herds are on the waiting list.
One DHIA member has asked to be put on the new EDPM record keeping system.
- b. A dairy school was conducted at which time record keeping, forage crops and feeding and management were discussed by outstanding speakers. A dairy tour was conducted jointly with Roanoke county. Thirty six dairymen from both counties took a four-day tour to Lexington, Kentucky by Grey Hound bus.
- c. At least 20 dairymen were helped intensively in planning good over-all farm and livestock programs.
- d. Artificial breeding has increased in the county by over 200 head this year. More farmers are taking advantage of the program each year. Approximately 1,500 head were

have been tested. The deadline is February, 1960. The program has been publicized through meetings and many personal visits. All farmers so far have proven very cooperative.

- e. Ten thousand seven hundred twenty pounds of wool were pooled by the farmers in the county for a gross price of \$1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per pound sold through Caldwell in Philadelphia.
- f. A demonstration was held on the control of external parasites. As a result more farmers are controlling lice, ticks and fly problems.

C. Dairy

1. Situation

There are approximately 5,000 head of dairy cows and 5,000 more head of heifers and calves. There are 80 grade A milk producers, and over 100 grade C producers in the county. Approximately one-third of the farm income is from dairying. We are located close to Roanoke.

2. Goals

- a. Increase milk production 100 pounds per cow in all DHIA herds this year, and to enroll two new DHIA or owner-sampler members.
- b. To decrease disease losses, particularly mastitis.
- c. To increase forage and pasture production by 5%.
- d. Aid producers in marketing problems.
- e. Decrease cost of concentrated feeds.

3. Methods

- a. Publicize and promote DHIA program and help to carry on

3. Methods

- a. Work with cattlemen in holding organized cattle sales.
- b. Contact farmers and 4-H members to encourage them to show in the Fat Stock Show and Sale.
- c. Bring 400 head of sheep into the county for replacements.
- d. Work with area and local veterinarians on the state bangs control program which is now under-way in the county.
- e. Work with wool pool and inform growers on incentive payment for wool.
- f. Conduct demonstrations on control of external parasites.
- g. Mail out plans for building livestock pens and chutes to farmers.

4. Results

- a. Three organized feeder cattle sales were held at Roanoke. The county consigned approximately 1,100 head to the three sales. Sixty percent of the county calves graded good or better.
- b. Eighteen head of 4-H fat steers and heifers and 25 head of hogs were exhibited at the Roanoke Fat Stock Show and Sale.
- c. Two hundred head of sheep were brought into the county, and approximately 200 head were kept by producers for replacement stock.
- d. The agents have worked closely with veterinarians on the state bangs control program. A good part of the cattle

on hill-side farms. At least 30 farmers were worked with extensively on planning a 12-month forage program.

- e. Farmers took greater advantage of soil testing. More samples were sent in than in previous years. Sample boxes were distributed at meetings and talks were made on the importance of soil testing.

B. Livestock

1. Situation

There are 5,167 head of beef cows in the county and approximately 4,400 steers. There are 3 organized sales conducted in the area: Spring Yearling Sale, Fall Yearling Sale and Feeder Calf Sale. All livestock is improving in quantity and quality. There are approximately 1,800 head of sheep and approximately 700 farms report having some swine.

2. Goals

- a. To help conduct 3 organized sales and to sell at least 1,000 head of cattle from Botetourt county through these sales.
- b. To improve quality in beef cattle by having 70% of feeder calves grade good or better in the fall sale.
- c. Increase sheep numbers to 2,500 and aid in marketing wool.
- d. Control parasites and diseases.
- e. Show 25 head of cattle and 25 head of hogs in the spring Fat Stock Show and Sale.
- f. Improve livestock handling equipment on farms.
- g. Aid in having all cattle in the county tested for bangs.

fertiliser requirements. Set up at least one pasture fertiliser demonstration.

- c. Conduct demonstrations on insect control. Use every available means (news papers, TV, letters, personal contact, etc.) to inform farmers of insect attacks.
- d. Stress a 12-month forage plan and work with 50 farmers this year on such a plan.
- e. Try to get farmers to use soil test recommendations for lime and fertiliser application.

h. Results

- a. A publicity campaign was promoted to inform farmers on the use of the ACP program. A stickweed eradication program was promoted for the second time this year. Farmers were told about the program through meetings and personal visits.
- b. Every available means was utilised to inform farmers on recommended varieties and fertiliser requirements. All the local dealers and agricultural workers were sent the latest information available on seeds and fertiliser.
- c. The county was attack severely with alfalfa weevil again this year. The agents worked very closely with the farmers in controlling this serious pest. As a result almost 100% of infested fields were sprayed. Many farmers used granulated heptachlor in February.
- d. The agents stressed the importance of hay crops and pasture

- D. How to market all products more successfully.
- E. How to keep informed in order to take advantage of quick changes in agriculture.
- F. How to control insects, parasites and diseases on a county-wide basis.

As we see it, there are great opportunities for farmers who can increase their volume of business with little additional labor. We need more farmers depending on more different kinds of livestock for their main source of income since we have no cash crop in our county.

V. ACTIVITIES

A. Agronomy

1. Situation

Alfalfa acreage is increasing in the county. The trend is toward forage crops and pasture. Over 55,000 acres are used for pasture. At present it requires 3.6 acres of pasture per animal unit. Corn yields are approximately 45 bu. per acre, wheat 22, oats 38, barley 38, alfalfa hay 2.1 tons and other hay 1 ton.

2. Goals

- a. Help farmers to increase yields of pasture and crops by 1/10 ton of alfalfa hay, 5 bu. of corn, and 1 animal unit per 3 acres of pasture.

3. Methods

- a. Assist farmers in making best use of 1959 ACP program.
- b. Utilize news papers, TV, group meetings and tours, to publicize approved practices, recommended varieties and

- C. Changes in agriculture are taking place so fast which make our present goals obsolete in a very short time. Prices which farmers pay for what they buy is not in line with prices they receive.
- D. A series of years of less than normal rain fall per year has caused farmers in certain sections of our county to become alarmed.

III. ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

A. The Botetourt County Board of Agriculture

- 1. The purpose of the board is to coordinate all agricultural work in the county and to set up objectives for solving farm and home problems. The County Board of Agriculture is composed of representatives from the organized agricultural and home economics groups.

- B. The following groups aided in the county program by making plans in their particular field of activity: County Board of Agriculture composed of Roanoke-Botetourt Fruit Growers, Botetourt County DHEA, Ro-Bot Breeders, Botetourt County Division of Roanoke Cooperative Milk Producers' Association, Botetourt County Poultry Association, Botetourt Wool Pool, Botetourt Banks, Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District, Botetourt livestock organizations, County Committee of ASC, 4-H leaders' council, 4-H County Council and 4-H All Stars' organization.

IV. COUNTY PROBLEMS, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- A. How to increase the size of farms to get higher production per farm unit.
- B. How to get the capital investment needed.
- C. How to get more livestock particularly sheep on our farms.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY

Botetourt county at the present time is quite rural in its make-up. However, industry is now moving in from Roanoke, Covington, Clifton Forge and Glasgow. Roanoke in particular is overflowing into Botetourt county. On the south side of the county small tracks of 25 acres and less are in strong demand. Farmers in several sections of the county are being forced to comply with urban demands. Many farmers are now offering excellent building sites to such trade at prices which range from \$500 to \$1,000 per acre. We now have over 800 farms that produce less than \$1,200 worth of farm produce per year. This leaves only 441 farms producing more than \$1,200 worth of farm produce per year. This means that we have a tremendous group of part-time farmers who work at full employment at a regular job and do some farming on the side, or those who consider themselves farmers, but who do more custom work for other farmers.

The Botetourt county farms are fairly well supplied with running water. As of 1955 875 farms reported having running water. Six hundred eighty four farms have telephones, 636 farms have television sets, 376 have home freezers. There are 33 corn pickers, 130 pick-up balers, 28 forage harvesters and 609 tractors on Botetourt farms.

II. CHANGES IN THE SITUATION

The following trends and changes are being noticed in the county:

A. More small farms

B. Investment in land and machinery per farm is getting higher

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NARRATIVE REPORT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK

in

BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA

1959

B. E. Leonard, County Agent

C. E. Brown, Assistant County Agent

L. W. Doitnott, Assistant County Agent

Lois B. Edwards, Stenographer

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

B. E. Leonard

Name

County Agent

Agent

Title

C. E. Brown

Assistant Agent

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Botetourt

County