

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1962

Essex

County

FORWARD

This report is written with this in mind , Number 1. To bring together briefly some of the phase of activities that were set forth in the County ^x Program for the year, outlining what was attempted , and procedures used in ~~putting~~ the program in to action. Second. Relating some of the results and accomplishments obtained.

Third; Some facts about activities connected with the program that helped to arrive at the results and accomplishments

And a brief statement about some other work not listed in the County Program of Work.

ORDER OF ARRANGEMENT IN REPORT

COVER PAGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

ORDER OF ARRANGEMENT

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

COUNTY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

AREAS OF EMPHASIS

SWINE PRODUCTION

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

4-H and OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS

OTHER WORK

HOME IMPROVEMENT WORK

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IV County Organizations

Community Clubs

4-H Clubs

County Advisory Board

4-H Council

Community Leaders

The County Advisory Board is a county wide organization , made up of farm men and women, both old and young representing all phases of activities and businesses.

The board is organized under the standard procedures of organizing other clubs and such. The reorganization of the present board was accomplished in 1960.

After a survey in 1960-61 the advisory board adopted three major goals for 1961 and 1962:

They were 1. To continue to work with the local agent in helping to increase the farm and home income through the use of good seed, lime and fertilizer.

2. To Continue some recreation in the family program over the county each year, this was to be through a family recreation day at the beach each year.

3. To urge more and better participation in the county water safety program that is held each year for two weeks, and sponsored by the Local Chapter of the Red Cross.

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County and Community Leaders

Thirty three men and twenty three women over the county serve in this capacity, these are the unpaid persons out in the county who have seen the light to same phase of better living in the country. These people work unselfh with their fellowman, sometimes they do not agree they report but they continue to work for a better community and county.

Many things accomplished by the leaders are unnoticed and can not be measured with a rule or by the acres . Many results are measured by the respect given to these people by their fellow neighbor. In the Supply Community this fall, one leader spent time and her own finance to help her neighbor to get the desired information about getting a well dug at the home place, atleast six telephone conversations were made between the two women and the Local Agents office before the actual process of getting the well dug and its completion. As a result , there are two happy families in the community, one with the supply of water and the other with a job well done. It is well to mention here that before the Well was dug, the family supply of water had to be carried from another farm well atleast $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile away.

Local leaders also, work toward living a respectful life in their communities as an inspiration to young people and to others. Most of the leaders in the county own their homes or are buying them. Most leaders work with young people in some respects , either in clubs or churches. They work themselves with other adult organizations , such as P.T.A, Fraternal Organizations and Civic Affairs. They are also voters in county and State affairs.

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County and Community Leaders

Group action of young leaders was exhibited this summer with the Water Safety Program for ten days. Heretofore, action had been shown mostly in transportation for the young people , but this summer we were successful in getting a group of young mothers to take over the supervision and registration of all persons taking part in the program.

During the winter , with six inches of snow on the ground, one young leader traveled more than fifty miles to attend a 4-H Leader Training Meeting to get first hand information on Club Work, as a result the leader has a better understanding and is able to impart more and better information to those she works with .

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Agricultural Production , Management and Natural
Resource Development .

Swine Production ; High Mortality of Baby Pigs Farrowed during
the Winter Months.

Situation ; The sale of Swine in Essex County rates third in Farm
Income , First the sale of Beef Cattle and second the sale of Poultry
and poultry product. One factor intering into this third place rating
can be contributed to the loss of baby pigs born during the cold winter
months.

The objectives in this program two, First, we set out to do some
educational work with producers in improving the management program on
their particular farm where these losses had ocured. Striving to get
the producer to recognize his possibilities of increasing his income
if he would attempt to do something about his losses. Second, To get
some action and some organizational work done with as many as are
suffering these losses, Whether through individual or group action .

Progress of this Major Emphasis for 1962 , is encouraging
in that in a short time of one year four farmers have indicated that
they are losers each year when their sows farrow in the winter. They
admit that they are responsible for these losses, due to their neglect,
of getting too busy with other farm chores and putting off until the
sows are about to farrow and they have not made suitable preparation.

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Swine Production ,Cont

Progress.

One farmer reported that last winter ,1961 his sows were farrowing and he had not made suitable preparation and as a result he was the loser. To offset this happening he is seeing to it that his sows are housed well in advance and ready for the weather . This farmer reports some of his past mistakes, which he hopes to avoid in the future program;

1. To build a new farrowing house with a cement floor to avoid the sow of digging holes and making her bed in same, there by trapping the newly born pigs when she lies down.

2. To build smaller farrowing stalls with individual gates and a center hall making it possible to handle each sow with ease.

3. Two farmers reports that thier present houses are too dusty during the time the house is in use and therefore they a building with more ventilation.

To Evaluate This Program.

1. Changes are few for one year of practice, but group and individual interest is high in the program .

2. Plan are being sketched and studies for remodeling or building suitable and practical farrowing houses are in the making with hog raisers.

3. Two farmers with the age have been to see other farrowing houses for information and ideas.

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Agronomy : Increase Yield of Soy Beans in Essex County.

Situation:

Soybeans in Essex County contribute a large sum to the Annual Income of Farmers in the county, yet there are farmers who seed soybeans to land that will not give a cost of labor and seed return. The yield for the county is eighteen bushels per acre as compared to twenty and one half for the State.

The problem in the county for many farmers is low yield and a high cost of production , as a result the Program Objective is to try to raise the low yield and lower the cost of production.

As an educational program , plans were worked out with leaders over the county to hold meetings with soybean producers First, to discuss the problem as it related to the county and to attempt to find out just how many producers were in this category of low yields and high cost of production. Second, To find out how many new are liming and fertilizing their beans, whether , in a rotation with other crops or with soybeans alone. Three, we attempted to find out about the cost of production and the yield as it relates to the total net returns.

The Progress made for this year is small as to what we hope to attain in the future , however we did find several factors that are interesting to all producers. They are as listed ;

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Soybeans cont.

1. That most soils in the county are well adopted to the growing of soybeans except a few acres near Marshy Land.
2. That soybeans are grown on soil in 75% of the cases that have never or have not been limed for a long period of time.
3. That many farmers did not know that soybeans will respond well to a lime and fertilizer combination.
4. That too many soybean producers seed beans to fields that have never been grown to soybeans and they expect a good yield for their efforts.
5. That soybeans seeded after a certain date , will not give the yield per acre as beans that are seeded early, and that beans in many instances seeded after grain harvest in many cases serve only as a soil builder and not as a grain producing crop.

Evaluation of the Program.

As a result of the facts found and results compiled, these comments were registered; That liming is important and that soil testing can only reveal this. 2. The yield of beans in Essex County can be increased through a soil liming and fertilizer program . 3. That the response and action to the program is gratifying, in that four demonstrators have been suggested to comply with the program to the fullest extent and other farmers are to observe these demonstrations.

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Project Areas; 4-H and Other Extension Youth Programs

Phase. 4-H Records and Completion of Projects Selected

A small number of 4-H Members over the county seem to be able to ever get a credible project started and are able to carry through to completion. Many members say their parents fail to give complete ownership to the boy and girl, therefore the loose interest in such a deal and become disinterested in a complete job and such a deal on part of parents.

The specific problem then is to get more suitable projects established that will hold interest of the member and offer freedom of work and inspire completion. Also, to contribute to the welfare of the family and create interest on part of the family, that can encourage completion.

Objectives established were four, for the year. In order to get a clearer understanding on part of the members and the parents as to the meaning of 4-H Club work and just what club work can do to help the member and what the results will show for a good job done in 4-H Work. 2. To make clear what the requirements are to be a member and what is expected from the member and from the parents. 3. Aims, just what do we expect to do and teach the member and what is to be learned by the member during his membership in the club. 4. The Records, what are they, why records and what do they show.

Along with the educational plan with the member and his parents a certain amount of organizational work was done to continue to acquaint

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4-H and other Youth Program, Cont

the member and parent of the working side of 4-H project work , about the training the member gets that he would not otherwise get were he not identified as a member. To do some of these things , meetings, discuesions and printed material had to be put into the hands of the 4-H members to be used by the member and parents .

Some of the results of these changes and plans can be sumed up under one ^{or} the other of the catagories below ;

1. The enrollment made a change as a result of the chanced attitudes of the parents toward 4-H Club work. In 1961 we enrolled 203 members, in 1962 we had an enrollment of 256 members. Interest was highest with the boys in two projects, first; Electricity and Safety and Second Tractor Maintenance and Care. For the Girls Home Ground Beautification and Safety.

2. Parents interest and support changed, with the change of the program . Material supplies for work increased and assistance was offered more freely.

3. Four new volentary leaders came forward and offered their services and contributions to the work. One leader traveled in the snow 45 miles for information and training. Four boys and five girls served their club members as local Junior Leaders as a result of previous training at the State 4-H Short Course. Not only did they serve in their clubs , but in the Water Safety Program and in the Churches as well.

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Other Work Accomplishes Not Included in Plan

Home Improvement;

This phase of work take up a large portion of the Local Agents time, either through personal calls or through answering requests for conferences on building, remodeling or the use of New Equipment in the home. More families than ever before , are installing Running Water in their homes . Three demonstrations were established in the county with the assistance of local leaders, the value of new homes varies from \$ 8,000 to \$. 20,000. over the county,

There is a great influx of the Package homes in the county, some so called Shell Homes and others are 95% complete and ready to move into. More young families are building and moving to themselves than ever experienced. This may be contributed to the desire for your own and there in mone money available .

Safety and Water Safety.

Are two important phases during their seasons, safety in and around the home is a yearly thing, Water Safety is a seasnable project but however important since we have a large area of the county surrounded by water and a large number of farm ponds . This year we registered no water accidents.