4-H District Camp

Richmond County had 28 boys and girls, along with two leaders and the Ass't. Co. Agent, to attend 4-H Camp at Jamestown. The special class in forestry added much to the camp, with a forester from the Chesapeake Corporation leading the discussions.

Following their week at camp, a number of 4-H members appeared on the local radio to discuss their activities at camp, and to encourage other members to attend in future years. Members have also appeared on the programs of civic clubs and with the use of colored slides taken at camp, have presented very interesting programs.

Northern Neck Fair

4-H Club members took a very active part in the Northern Neck Fair this year. There were 18 4-H club members who exhibited dairy and beef animals and swine in the various classes at the Fair. The Senior 4-H Clubs put up an Educational exhibit which took second place. The first place was taken by a Senior 4-H member of Richmond County who had an educational exhibit in forestry.

4-H District Contests

The District Contests were held in Richmond on April 18th. The contests were quite successful with the participation and interest shown by all who attended. The day was highlighted by the Awards Program at Thalhimers. Richmond County had the District winner in the Tractor Driving Contest.

Annual Awards and Agricultural Banquet

Our Annual Agricultural Banquet was held in February. 146 persons attended this affair. Recognition was given to Agricultural, Home Demonstration, and 4-H volunteer workers of the county. 4-H club members received County medals and awards for their achievements in 4-H club work. This meeting also serves as our Achievement Program for the year.

Fund Raising

The 4-H Club Council of the county served food at the Fall Northern Neck Field Trials in order to raise money for the promotion of 4-H work in the County and to finance some of its activities. The money was placed in the Council treasury to be used as the Council and Agents see fit.

and taught by the Farm Machinery Dealers and Oil Distributors of the area. Two former 4-H club members served as leaders in this project and did an excellent job.

Classes were offered in both the A and B Units of the Tractor Maintenance Program. Sixteen boys were enrolled in the two courses with 16 completing. The classes were followed by a County Tractor Driving Contest for both Junior and Senior members on April 4, 1959. Awards were given in both the Junior and Senior divisions for driving ability and perfect attendance in the course. The winners of the Junior and Senior contests went to Richmond to participate in the District Tractor Driving Contest, with the Senior winner receiving an award and the Junior member receiving more training in tractor driving. The Senior winner went on to Blacksburg to compete in the State Contest.

SOILS

This was a group project taught to three groups. In this the 4-H club members were taught in class about how the soil is made and what goes into the soil. After the classes on soil the 4-H club members were taken on a short field trip with a lay leader in charge of the tours. They were shown the divisions in the soil and were asked questions on what they had been taught in class. The 4-H club members were also taught how to take soil samples and were advised to take samples from the fields on their own farms.

FOREST APPRECIATION

This is being carried by all the 4-H club members as a group project. The club members are taught the different types of trees and how to tell the difference between the trees. We had 255 boys and girls enrolled in this project.

This project helps the 4-H members to recognize the different species of trees, and the parts that make up a tree.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Participation of 4-H club members in all club activities is constantly stressed. The majority of these activities were the results of goals set up by the County Council.

4-H Short Course

Three girls, Patsy Bowen, Patty Camper, and Barbara Gray, and two boys, Evans Lewis and Francis Gray, attended the 4-H Short Course at Blacksburg, along with Wm. M. Clement, Ass't. County Agent. Francis Gray and Patsy Bowen were taken into the All Star organization. Evans Lewis participated in the State Tractor Driving Contest.

b. News articles, radio talks, and correspondence were all used as educational media to reach our goals.
c. Local leaders and Extension Specialists were used at Club meetings, contests, and demonstrations, to present the instructional phase of the 4-H projects.
d. Both professional and lay workers of the county were used as leaders in presenting instruction to the 4-H members.
e. The 4-H County Council met whenever necessary to train officers and develop leaders, and to correlate the county 4-H program.
f. District 4-H Camp, Short Course, and District contests, contributed to the development of leadership.

PROJECTS

Dairy

There is a very active Dairy Chain in the county, sponsored by the Northern Neck State Bank and local dairymen of the county. This chain consists of registered Guernseys, and it's over-all purpose is to establish high producing and better quality dairy animals throughout the county. One dairy heifer has been placed with a 4-H club member this year, making a total of 39 heifers placed in the county since the chain was begun a number of years ago. Before a 4-H club member can receive a heifer they must demonstrate their ability to care for the heifer and be approved by the County Extension Agents. Once they receive the animal, the first registered heifer calf produced, or if after 3 bull calves are produced, the member will either replace the calf with a registered heifer calf or pay the amount agreed upon by the contract. This animal is then given to another 4-H club member.

During the summer a demonstration was held on the Fitting and Showing of Dairy animals. 4-H members in the county exhibited their animals at the Northern Neck Fair and won a number of prizes.

Swine

There is also a 4-H Pig Chain in the county sponsored by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation. All the pigs in this chain are registered Hampshires. Five purebred gilts and one boar have been placed with 4-H club members during the past year.

As in the Chain, the 4-H club members either replace a purebred gilt or the money to buy another bilt to go back into the chain. The 4-H club members also sell their pigs locally or they have the choice of placing the pigs in the Feeder Pig Sale.

Tractor Maintenance

During the winter a Tractor Maintenance School was held at night at the two high schools in the county. This project was sponsored

4-H Club Program

Organization

There are eight 4-H clubs in Richmond County which meet once a month in the two county high schools. These clubs elect and install their officers at the beginning of the school year. During the club meetings the primary emphasis is placed on the conducting of the meeting and on group projects. There are many sources of outside information brought in to help carry out these projects with overall supervision from the county Extension Agents and lay leaders. The individual projects receive individual instruction on these projects by home visits made by the Extension Agents and lay leaders.

There is a 4-H Club County Council made up of officers from the eight clubs in the county. This Council meets as often as necessary, which is usually once a month to correlate the activities of all clubs and make plans on a countywide basis.

GOALS:

The 4-H club goals for this year were developed by the 4-H County Council and the Extension Agents.

Goals set up for the year were as follows:

1. To observe Special National 4-H events as 4-H Club Week, Rural Life Sunday, National 4-H Achievement Day, etc.
2. To have at least 25 members attend District Camp with each club represented.
3. To make available 4-H member signs.
4. To have 80% completion of record books.
5. To have an educational 4-H Exhibit at the Northern Neck Fair.
6. To have at least 5 members from each club to exhibit at the Northern Neck Fair.
7. To have adult organizational and project leaders in each club.
8. To have at least one recreational activity in each club during the year.
9. To have County Council pay half the expenses of one boy and one girl to the State 4-H Short Course.
10. To encourage prospective members to join a 4-H club.
11. To have group 4-H singing at each club meeting and other special 4-H activities.

METHODS

To accomplish the goals of the 4-H program in the county the following methods were used:

a. Regular home visits by the Extension Agents helped a great deal in the success of the over-all 4-H program.

Disease and parasite control measures are continuously stressed. Erysipelas and cholera were held in check by vaccination, and the newer lice and mange materials gave excellent control of these two enemies.

The Feeder Pig Association has had its troubles - due mainly, the Agent believes, to the lack of a good Producer-Manager who is vitally interested in seeing this area go forward in the hog business. At the last meeting of the Association this was emphasized as a necessity, and we believe that this will be corrected in the near future. This county has 26 members in the Association.

Forestry

The goal set was: To get 300 acres reforested to approved species of trees by the following methods:

1. To get 20 woodland owners to seek the help of a qualified forester to advise them on a reforestation and management plan for their woodlands.
2. To urge landowners to retire submarginal land to trees.
3. To urge all woodland owners to do some reforestation each year however small.
4. To urge all 4-H club members who live on farms to carry Forestry projects.

A Forestry Contest was conducted again this year with 26 landowners participating and carrying out the following practices:

1	Bulldozing for natural reseeding	-	130 acres
2	" and planting	-	169 "
3	Spot planting and killing	-	130 "
4	Release of desirable stands	-	128 "
5	Thinning	-	10 "
6	Spot planting	-	18 "
			583 "

Twenty-six woodland owners sought the advice of qualified Foresters on the reforestation and management of their woodlands. A long time reforestation plan was put into action on the Sabine Hall tract (approximately 1000 acres), which is the largest "farmer owned" tract in the county.

2000 pine seedlings, in lots of 10 or more, were given to 4-H club members who live on farms. The main purpose was to get them and their parents interested in reforestation by observing the growth of trees that they themselves had planted. Planting instructions were given at the 4-H club meetings by the Chesapeake Corporation Forester. 255 4-H members were enrolled in the Forestry project.

State and Chesapeake Corporation Foresters are marking trees for harvest and giving other on-the-farm advice to owners. There is much interest throughout the county in reforestation.

Swine

Goals set up were as follows:

1. To urge farmers to produce good quality feeder pigs.
2. To assist farmers in purchasing good quality females and males.
3. To advise on building and remodeling brooding facilities and on brooding.
4. To advise on proper rations for sows and pigs, including pasture for sows.
5. To assist in setting future dates for six organized Feeder Pig Sales per year so that producers may know when to breed their sows.
6. To try to produce 1000 Feeder pigs this year for the Sale.
7. To urge every corn grower to use hogs to clean up behind corn pickers, and picker-shellers where practical to do so.
8. To conduct an educational campaign on the control of external and internal parasites, and diseases common to this area.

The Swine Committee and the Agent feel that our smaller farmers can increase their income by producing feeder pigs for sale, and that the larger farmers should use hogs to glean their fields of corn after harvesting. Special emphasis was put on the swine program, and the Agent spent more time on it than any other program.

For farrowing houses we are attempting to use what we have with remodeling and repairing rather than to erect new buildings. Poultry brooder houses, horse barns, etc., have been converted to farrowing houses.

24 producers have sold approximately 900 pigs through the six Feeder Pig Sales that were sponsored by the Tappahannock Feeder Pig Association, Tappahannock, Va. Most of the pigs have brought fair prices. However, the price difference between the grades has not been commensurate with the quality difference, but, we believe the buyers will soon begin to buy according to grade. Most of the pigs have been purchased by feeders within the Sale area.

Several corn growers used hogs to glean their fields. However, more could do so, and we will continue to stress this.

Two hog parlors were erected this year by V.P.I. specifications, and three farmers converted buildings on the farm to parlors.

The Agent has assisted producers in purchasing and selecting gilts, sows, and boars. There is much interest shown by producers in producing good quality pigs for the Feeder Sale.

The Agent was also instrumental in getting the Raritan Club to Sponsor a quality feeder pig production contest on a countywide basis. The first prize was a certified meat type boar.

Considerable time was also spent on feeding problems, proper rations for brood sows, pigs, and hogs in the parlor were stressed. This, and other management problems were discussed with the producers on the farm.

3. To urge farmers to do a good job in growing out their heifers by - a. Proper feeding
   b. Control of insects and parasites
   c. Breeding at proper time

The DHIA members have done a very good job in using their DHIA records to cull their poor producers and have replaced them with better animals when replacement was made. The Agent has worked closely with them on this.

A good source of Holstein heifer calves was located in New Jersey, and approximately 120 calves were purchased. Several farmers participated purchasing from 3 to 10 calves each. However, all except three farmers have already sold their feifers to buyers out of the county at a profit. This somewhat defeats the committee's idea of growing them out and selling them as bred heifers, but, the Agent believes that any time a fair profit can be made is the time to sell, as our aim is to increase the income of our farmers. We plan to push this project in 1960.

Beef Cattle

The committee set up the following goals:

1. To urge the culling of all beef-dairy cross cows in herds of 10 or more and to replace with good beef type individuals when practical to do so.
2. To urge the culling of all inferior sires and to replace with good type fast growing individuals.
3. To urge all producers to breed for December, January, and February calves.
4. To urge all producers to identify calves with dams by numbering, and to cull all dams producing inferior calves at weaning time.
5. To urge all beef herd owners to sell calves through Feeder Calf Sale.

The culling of the beef-dairy cross or mixed blood cows in herds above 10 in number has proved a little difficult, but we have made fair progress. This will take time because usually it involves a replacement purchase at or near the cost of the cow sold, which is impossible at times.

Inferior sires are being culled by all of the Feeder Calf producers as rapidly as possible to do so. An attempt was made this past breeding season to arrange so that a definite check could be made on the grade and growth of the calves that are being sired by all the bulls within a herd.

All feeder calf producers except one have their cows numbered so that culling may be done according to the quality and growth of the calf produced.

One farmer sold feeder calves this past fall for the first time and was well pleased. He was the last producer with 10 or more beef cows not selling in the Feeder Sale.

The Agent also worked with several key growers on better picking methods. Some progress was made in getting the growers to supervise the pickers more closely, thereby getting a better picking job as to quality, and care of the plant.

Most of the growers in the Haynesville area used heptachlor fertilizer broadcast before setting, and received excellent flea-beetle and cutworm control.

A weed control demonstration using Eptam broadcast and working it into the soil shallow at the last cultivation gave excellent results on a very weedy and grassy spot in the field. However, on the demonstration where we broadcast the material on the top of the soil, practically no control was received. Mr. Allen Kates ably assisted in conducting this demonstration.

Whether the tomato industry in the Northern Neck can be gotten on a sound basis depends almost entirely on the canners, and the Agent is doubtful if they will invest the capital necessary to put up tomato products such as juice, puree, catsup, etc. Our study of the situation shows that canned tomatoes, as such, are not as popular with the housewife as they once were, and that sales nationwide are falling off while sales of the products such as juice, catsup, etc., are climbing.

3. Red Sweet Peppers for Canning

Considerable investigation and work was expended on this project, but, due to the inability of the canner to locate the necessary equipment at a price that would justify the experiment this year, the project had to be abandoned.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

This is chiefly a grain producing county, and it is the belief of the Agricultural Board that more livestock should be produced, particularly hogs. Also that there is much room for improvement in the quality of the present livestock, and that all dairy-beef crosses should be eliminated as rapidly as possible, that poor producers in both the dairy and beef herds should be culled, that an effort should be made to improve the quality of the livestock by buying good females as well as males, that organized marketing such as special sales, etc., should be given special emphasis, and that our farmers should be taught to do a better job of following the good rules of animal husbandry.

Dairy

Goals set up by the Dairy Committee were as follows:

1. To urge all farmers to cull mature cows in the DHIA herds that are producing under 7000 lbs. milk and 275 lbs. fat.
2. To locate a good source from which to purchase heifer calves out of high producing herds and to help pool orders for same.

We attempted to reach our goals by the following:

1. Cooperating with other "Neck" counties in setting up a Committee of canners and growers for special "studies" and recommendations.
2. Soliciting help for the committee in developing special projects for study, and to help get in action.
3. By getting the results to growers and canners as fast as available.
4. To investigate the feasibility of getting the canners who are attempting to put up a "quality Pack" to pool their packs under a special label and sell direct to the larger buyers.
5. Get growers to plant 50% of their acreage in varieties especially recommended for processing.
6. To urge growers to use the best known cultural and fertilization practices.
7. To urge growers to do a better job of picking.

In January a meeting was called of all Agents and canners of the Northern Neck to discuss the situation. Attendance was excellent, and after much discussion a committee of canners was appointed to formulate an action program. After several meetings of this group, in which the Agent participated, three projects were suggested: 1. This involved the processing personnel of V.P.I. in a thorough study of the canning qualities of the relatively new varieties now being grown, also the "holding" quality of the raw fruit after it is picked. This work was done at the Experiment Station, Warsaw, Va. A report on this work has not be completed to date. 2. To purchase raw fruit on a quality basis throughout the area. This was done uniformly by all canners by paying for only the poundage of good cannable tomatoes that were in the basket. This certainly helped to improve the quality of the "pack" as growers did a better job of picking. 3. For those who were trying to put up a quality pack to pool their packs and sell under a special label. The Agent assisted in setting the stage for this by soliciting the help of the Virginia Chain Store Council, the Marketing Expansion Section of the State Division of Markets, and the Horticulture Department at V.P.I. After a meeting of the personnel of this group with several canners, four canners agreed to organize and to pool their pack. The trade name "Historyland" was selected, and a very attractive lithographed label designed. Approximately 15,000 cases were packed. Arrangements have been made to market them through a large wholesale distributing agency.

The Agent helped to get the organization in operation and is an ex-officio member of the cooperative.

With the cooperation of the plant brokers approximately 60% of the County's acreage was planted to the variety, "Campbell 135". This seems to be an excellent canning variety, and one that will hold its quality after picking for a longer period of time than will the Rutger variety.

A large majority of the producers had their soils analyzed, and fertilized according to recommendations made by the Agent.

dealers in the area and secured their cooperation in stocking only the recommended hybrids for this area.

Thru radio, circular letters, and talks at farm and civic meetings, and personal visits, farmers were urged to have their soils tested for acidity and plant food so that a more intelligent job of liming and fertilizing for maximum yields could be done. A good many soil samples were brought to the office, and the Agent sampled several farms where the owners were away or incapacitated, the fertilizer salesmen also cooperated in this endeavor. The Agent feels that progress is being made in fertilizing according to the crop's need as determined by the soil test, past history of production, etc.

We urged all farmers to treat their seed with an insect protectant to help prevent injury by soil borne insects, and on fields where severe damage had been experienced in the past, to use Aldrin or Heptachlor at least one week to 10 days before planting. The Agent is of the opinion that this practice will pay large dividends on infested soils. It has been very effective in controlling the corn root maggot, the wireworm, cutworms, and the flea beetle. Most of the Aldrin and Heptachlor used was in the fertilizer.

The Heaviest infestation ever known of the European corn borer was experienced this year, and the Agent has notified all farmers to plow under all corn stalks, cobs, and large weeds durin g the winter.

Weed control by spraying with 2-4-D is becoming more of an accepted practice. However, due to weather conditions this year weed control was a problem, as it was dry during the cultivation period the weed seed did not germinate, but, did so later in the season causing some of our fields to become so severely infested with Morning Glory that harvesting was a problem. This leads the Agent to believe that other chemicals should be recommended under this condition.

Due to lack of water during the critical growing period our average corn yield was far below 1958.

TRUCK CROPS

Tomatoes

The Agricultural Board felt that a thorough study should be made of the tomato situation, and a program initiated to save the industry, if possible to do so. Therefore, our goals were:

1. To work with the tomato canners and farmers in developing a program to thoroughly investigate the tomato situation in the Northern Neck, and to initiate an action program to get the industry on a sound basis if possible to do so.
2. To conduct a program on the production of quality fruit.

ANNUAL REPORT - 1959

The County Agricultural Board met in early January to discuss the agricultural situation of the county in relation to the trends and changes taking place State and Nationwide. The long time objectives were reviewed and changed where necessary in keeping with the trends and the capabilities of our farmers and other factors affecting the county. The Agent was instructed to place major emphasis on the following: Improved corn yields, truck crop production and marketing, livestock production and marketing - particularly swine, reforestation, and 4-H club work. Suggestions were also made for commodity committees and their membership. Immediately after the countywide meeting, the Agent set up the following committees: Corn, Truck Crops, Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, Swine, Forestry and 4-H Club. Members were contacted and dates were set for meetings to develop annual goals. This was completed in early February.

Forty six individuals participated in developing the agricultural program for the year.

1. Corn

Corn is one of our major crops in acreage and income. The committee feels that the average yield of 45 bu. for the county can be increased by approximately 10 bu. Our goal for this year was to increase the average yield 3 bu. per acre by using the following methods:

1. To conduct the 100 Bu. Corn Contest
   a. Invite all 100 bu. growers to annual Banquet and award trophy to winner.
2. To get farmers to plant good high yielding hybrids.
3. To get local seedsmen to carry the recommended hybrids.
4. To urge farmers to properly prepare land before planting.
5. To get farmers to seed Crimson Clover and small grains in late row planted soybeans, and on lespedeza sods to provide nitrogen and organic matter for corn.
6. To get farmers to have soil analyzed and to fertilize according to soil analysis for maximum yields.
7. To urge farmers to treat seed corn for soil insects or to use fertilizer with aldrin or heptachlor.
8. To urge farmers to control weeds by timely cultivation and chemicals.

The 100 Bu. Corn Contest was conducted. However, due to the poor growing season, yields were measured on only 20 farms. The highest and lowest yields were 119.0 and 71.0 bu. respectively. The winners will receive the County trophy from the local Bank at our Annual Awards Banquet in February.

During the early winter months the Agent visited the seed corn

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

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County
Title Agent

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Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

1959

Richmond
County