

VIRGINIA

RURAL SOCIOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT 1944

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RETURN TO  
**EXTENSION**  
DIVISION OF FIELD  
STUDIES & TRAINING

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT  
RURAL SOCIOLOGY EXTENSION  
VIRGINIA--1944

H. L. Hummel, Extension Specialist in Rural Organization

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ANNUAL REPORT  
RURAL SOCIOLOGY EXTENSION  
VIRGINIA--1944

I. SITUATION

With one specialist in the army and the other on the Emergency Farm Labor Program only incidental work was done from the state office on rural sociology extension up until October 1, 1944. Since that time B. L. Hummel has returned to full time work on this project and plans have been developed for a reestablishment of the work on an improved basis. It is quite possible that over a period of years more may have been gained than lost by this interruption but for the present it appears that ground has been lost in the work in the counties with the press of war work and no one to give special attention and persistent follow-up to the work in the state.

It was the realization on the part of administrative officers that we were not moving ahead in developing a stronger organizational system through which to do educational work during and immediately after the war that resulted in the specialist's being put back on this work and plans worked out with the administrative officers for a sound program on a state-wide basis with all extension workers cooperating. This is the significant improvement in the situation and one that should pay big dividends.

II. INCIDENTAL WORK DONE DECEMBER 1, 1943 TO OCTOBER 1, 1944

Naturally all work started and carried in cooperation with different agencies and organizations did not stop abruptly when the specialist was transferred temporarily to the farm labor program.

1. Work With Virginia Rural Church Conference Board.

For sixteen years this board has held an annual meeting to consider interdenominational plans for rural church work and to make specific plans for the Virginia Summer School for Rural Ministers sponsored jointly by VPI and the board. This work was continued this year and the summer school held with a total of 69 in attendance representing 23 counties in the state and five of the leading denominations.

A copy of the announcement and of the daily schedule, a list of those in attendance, and a map showing the counties from which the ministers came are attached to this report. The school was well received and the program considered especially strong. Support for the school on the part of denominational groups in the state is growing.

Neenan  
CHRISTIAN BOND

## 2. Work With The Virginia State Grange.

During the year the specialist has assisted in bringing about two very significant steps on the part of the State Grange. First a cooperative arrangement was worked out between the State and National Grange and the Southern States Cooperative whereby a full time state deputy would be employed to do organization work for the Grange.

Secondly, quite a complete change of officers and executive committee members was arranged which should add considerably to the effectiveness of the organization's work. The Grange should now either make good growth or cease to be an important factor in Virginia's agriculture.

## 3. Work On Neighborhood Leader's Digest.

The extension specialist has acted as a member of the editorial committee to get out the Neighborhood Leader's Digest each month during 1944. The specialist has contributed to each issue, and during the latter part of the year has prepared a special series of articles based on the Land Grant Colleges' report on postwar planning.

## 4. Map Service to County Farm and Home Agents.

When the communities and neighborhoods of the counties of the state were being mapped and when land-use maps were being prepared the Rural Sociology Extension staff in cooperation with the State Highway Department prepared inch-to-the-mile tracings of all counties in the state. During the past year many calls have continued to come from the county farm and home agents for copies of these maps with and without community and neighborhood boundaries. These have been supplied and work has been taken up again of assisting the counties in further refinement of the maps which are used as a basis of rural organization throughout the state.

## 5. Work On Rural Organization.

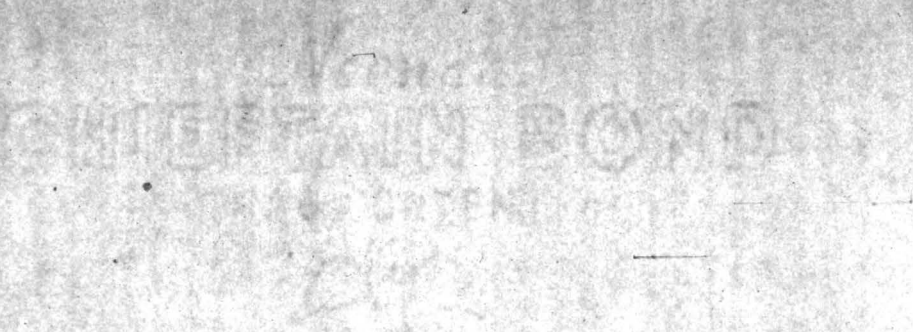
During the entire year personal conferences have been held with farm and home agents as the opportunity was afforded to discuss organization problems in their counties and the strengthening of county boards of agriculture and neighborhood leaders.

In addition to the individual conferences the specialist joined with one farm and one home agent in discussing "Ways of Making County Boards of Agriculture More Effective" as one topic on the Annual Extension Conference program.

## III. FULL TIME WORK SINCE OCTOBER 1, 1944

Two months have been devoted to reestablishing the rural sociology extension program. This was recognized as an opportunity to develop some

relationships and procedures on this program. In the first place with only one specialist on the job it was recognized that this specialist's time should be devoted to intensive work in a limited number of counties with a more remote service relationship to the rest of the counties. It was believed that the program in these intensive counties should provide a wealth of illustrations and suggestions for strengthening the work in other counties. At the same time it was recognized that for the work to be spread over the entire state there should be complete agreement on the part of administrative officers, district agents, and specialists concerning what was done in the intensive counties in order that practices established there would be spread naturally to the rest of the state. A long series of conferences were therefore held with men and women district agents in each district. Tentative selection of counties was made and an arrangement cleared for the district agents and specialist to initiate the work in the intensive counties together. Plans were also made for the bringing of agents from nearby counties into the intensive counties for conferences on organization and extension procedures each year in order that they might get the most help possible from the work in the intensive counties. The plans as outlined to date are given in a brief form on the attached sheets. It will be noted that several additional points are suggested in these outlines.



APPENDIX

Memorandum  
CHIEFS AND BOND  
CONTENTS

**SCHOOL OF RURAL LIFE  
FOR COUNTRY PREACHERS  
OF VIRGINIA AND NEARBY STATES**

The 1944 Summer School for Rural Ministers assumes special significance in the light of present day conditions. This is a time of special stress for everyone; and it is especially important that the rural church maintain a high standard of efficiency and a prominent place in the lives and thoughts of those who remain on the home front. Without this and without special thought and preparation the church as a whole and the rural church in particular will not be prepared to deal with the postwar problems which we are facing.

This school is specially designed to bring to the attention of rural ministers and leaders the principal factors to be considered in meeting the rural church situation of today and tomorrow. The school is interdenominational in character; and we draw upon the resources of all denominations, the State College of Agriculture, and other state and federal departments and agencies to supply the talent for this summer school program. No one interested in rural church work who can get four days' time to devote to it can afford to miss the school.

**DAILY PROGRAM**

Morning worship.—Blacksburg Ministerial Association.

1st Class.—Programs and Services Public Agricultural Agencies Are Bringing to Farm Families.—Prof. B. L. Hummel, Extension Specialist in Rural Organization, V. P. I., Blacksburg.

2nd Class.—Meeting the Problems of the Rural Church Today and Tomorrow.—Rev. Paul Doran, Sparta, Tenn., a successful rural minister.

3rd Class.—Rural Social Problems Affecting the Program of the Rural Church.—Dr. C. Horace Hamilton, Professor of Rural Sociology, N. C. State, Raleigh, N. C.

4th Class.—Pastoral Psychiatry—An Explanation of Human Behavior.—Dr. William S. Sadler, Chicago, Ill.

**Noon Recess**

The afternoon is devoted to informal denominational and group conferences with individual instructors and to rest, recreation, and inspection trips and tours.

**Dinner**

1st Evening Period.—Sermons by selected rural ministers.

2nd Evening Period.—Lectures by nationally known leaders of public and religious thought.

**TIME OF THE SCHOOL**

July 24-28, 1944

The first session of the school begins Monday night, July 24th. Registration begins at 1 p. m. that day. The program continues until noon Friday, July 28.

**Cost of the School**

The total cost of the school is \$7.50 per person for either ministers or their wives. This covers rooms, meals, and registration. No provision is made for children.

**Scholarships**

A great many scholarships are available from different denominations; and additional ones are available from the Home Missions Council. These cover all local expenses so that the minister only has to provide his transportation to and from Blacksburg. Even this can be reduced where several ministers can ride together. Those wanting scholarships should write to their own denominational headquarters or to B. L. Hummel, Secretary-Treasurer of the Virginia Rural Church Conference Board, Blacksburg, Va. Assistance can also be given in arranging transportation pools.

**Rest—Recreation—Information**

During the fifteen years that these schools have been held, many ministers have come to use this as their "vacation" period. Blacksburg is located in the mountains, 2,100 feet above sea level; and the campus is a delightful spot. The food and lodging are good; and the fellowship is unusually fine. The school is refreshing physically, mentally, and spiritually. Come.

For additional information write B. L. Hummel, Box 100, Blacksburg, Va.

**Executive Committee**

of the

**VIRGINIA RURAL CHURCH CONFERENCE  
BOARD—1944**

**Methodist**

Rev. H. H. Smith, Jr.

**Baptist**

Rev. W. C. Shawen  
Rev. J. B. Hill

**Presbyterian**

Rev. T. K. Currie  
Dr. H. W. McLaughlin  
Rev. N. L. Dennis

**Episcopal**

Rt. Rev. F. D. Goodwin  
Rev. J. H. P. Mason

**Lutheran**

Dr. R. H. Anderson  
Rev. H. E. Poff

**Disciples of Christ**

Rev. John A. Tate  
Rev. Allen Stanger

**Church of the Brethren**

Dr. Fred J. Wampler  
Rev. C. S. Ikenberry

**Reformed Church**

Rev. W. S. Gerhard

**Friends**

Rev. James R. Stein

PROGRAM FOR RURAL MINISTERS SUMMER SCHOOL  
VPI, BLACKSBURG, VA.--JULY 24-28, 1944

DAILY SCHEDULE

Time	Monday 24th	Tuesday 25th	Wednesday 26th	Thursday 27th	Friday 28th
7:15 a.m.		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:00-8:15		Worship, C. A. Turner	Worship, F. V. Fortune	Worship, A. H. Babank	Worship, J. H. Cobb
8:15-9:00		Agricultural Agencies and Their Services to Rural People--B. L. Hummel, Extension Specialist in Rural Organization, VPI.			
9:00-9:50		Present Day Problems in Rural Church Administration--Rev. K. E. Stidham, rural minister, Corinth, Mississippi.			
10:10-11:00		Rural Social Problems Affecting the Progress of the Rural Church--Dr. C. Bruce Hamilton, Professor Rural Sociology, State College, N. C.			
11:00-11:50		Pastoral Psychiatry--An Explanation of Human Behavior--Dr. William S. Sadler, Chicago, Ill.			
12:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-5:30	Registration	Informal conferences--Rest and recreation.--Inspection tours as arranged.			
5:30 p.m.	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Picnic Supper, Mountain Lake, Rev. Ralph Arthur, Ashurst.	
7:30	Rev. A. C. Meadows, Rad- ford.  Rev. J. P. H. Mason, Dorwell.	Rev. D. C. Loving, Free Union  Miss Maud Wallace, Extension Director.	Rev. J. M. Gregory, Blacksburg  Dr. O. E. Baker, College Park, Md.		

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ATTENDANCE OF THE  
1944 RURAL MINISTERS SUMMER SCHOOL

Those Enrolled for the Fall Period.

Baptist

Houghton, S. B.  
Houghton, Mrs. S. B.  
Richardson, E. M., Jr.

Danville, Virginia  
"  
Sutherland, Virginia

Disciple

Eubank, Alvah E.  
Hoye, J. Mitchell  
Hummel, B. L.  
Linkous, Julian B.  
Norton, Herman  
Pugh, Edsel  
Sala, John P.

Blacksburg, Virginia  
Ashland, Virginia  
Blacksburg, Virginia  
Radford, Virginia  
Hillsville, Virginia  
Martinsville, Virginia  
West Point, Virginia

Episcopal

Campbell, Palmer  
Hartman, A. Webster  
Loving, D. C.  
Mason, J. Philip

Sandston, Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia  
Free Union, Virginia  
Dorwell, Virginia

Methodist

Anderson, Marshall  
Arthur, C. Ralph  
Astin, Ira  
Hamilton, C. Horace  
Hunt, Francis L.  
Hunt, Mrs. Francis L.  
Mason, A. A.  
Moore, P. N.  
Morrison, John W.  
Nelson, R. H.  
Price, B. T.  
Sheets, W. D.  
Smith, G. C.  
Smith, H. H., Jr.  
Taylor, Jack B.  
Thompson, Elmer L.  
Verner, Lee S.  
Vaughan, L. C.

Alton, Virginia  
Asherst, Virginia  
Jeffs, Virginia  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
Stuart, Virginia  
"  
Stafford, Virginia  
Ballboro, Virginia  
Whaleyville, Virginia  
Carrett, Virginia  
Montvale, Virginia  
Fincastle, Virginia  
Eagle Rock, Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia  
Union Level, Virginia  
Onancock, Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia  
Flint Hill, Virginia

Presbyterian

Meikle, P. H.  
Stidham, E. E.  
Watts, C. H.  
Watts, Mrs. C. H.

Richmond, Virginia  
Corinth, Mississippi  
Chase City, Virginia  
"  
"

Those Not Enrolled.

Baldwin, Mrs. Edward	Blacksburg, Virginia
Beamer, L. C.	
Breedon, Mrs. Ted	
Carmath, F. C.	
Cobb, G. Manly	Leesburg, Virginia
Davis, R. H.	
Dalbuch, L. B.	
Dyck, P. B.	
English, W. D.	
Funk, Margaret	
Gibbs, C. G.	Floyd, Virginia
Heermance, Pauline	Blacksburg, Virginia
Hausel, M. R.	
Hill, Meta	Blacksburg, Virginia
Hudson, Mildred	
Jefferson, M. C.	
Lester, Virginia	Blacksburg, Virginia
Le Sueur, F. B.	Radford, Virginia
Low, Judy	
Mahoney, J. P.	
Meadows, A. C.	Radford, Virginia
Merritt, E. W.	
Mosingo, B. L.	Radford, Virginia
Mosingo, Mrs. B. L.	" "
Oksenberg, J. A.	
Poe, E. D.	Roanoke, Virginia
Poe, Mrs. E. D.	" "
Phillips, G. M.	
Reynolds, Mrs. H. D.	
Ross, Martha	
Riddich, Roland	Roanoke, Virginia
Thomas, Eleanor	
Vassar, Clarence	

EXPIRES IN BOND



RURAL ORGANIZATION PROGRAM  
VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
1945

PROGRESS TO DATE. In Virginia the past ten to fifteen years have provided an accumulation of experience and progress with:

- (1) Discussion groups.
- (2) County land-use planning.
- (3) County data and trend sheets.
- (4) Summary reports of county agricultural planning.
- (5) Land-use maps of many counties.
- (6) Community-neighborhood maps of still more counties.
- (7) Lists of white and of colored families by neighborhoods and communities.
- (8) A mailing list of men and women neighborhood leaders who have had some training and experience.
- (9) An established Neighborhood Leader's Digest.
- (10) A professional worker's council and
- (11) A county board of agriculture in most all counties.

Farm and home agents who have been on the job for several years have an accumulation of experience in all these activities but many newer agents know little or nothing about them. Thousands of leading farm men and women have participated in one or more of these activities. The experience to date and the materials available provide a basis for future work.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE. Looking ahead there are many problems to be worked out. Chief among the problems to be faced are:

- (1) Integrating the newer organization and planning activities with existing ones.
- (2) Doing more work with groups and through leaders instead of so largely on an individual service basis.
- (3) Integrating men's, women's, and 4-H club work more closely.
- (4) Working out the most agreeable and advantageous relationships with other agencies.
- (5) Promoting and working more closely with farm membership organizations and with cooperatives.
- (6) Shifting from war to postwar programs.
- (7) Reaching further down the road and serving smaller farmers and less privileged families.

These are some of the problems which we as an Extension Service are facing. We need to work them out as a unified service agency, not as individual workers with competing and conflicting ideas. It may not matter to one Extension worker what another one does but it does matter to the farm family and the rural community if our work is not coordinated. We are servants of the public and as such must organize our work and develop an Extension program which will bring the greatest and most permanent good to the largest number of people in Virginia. In order to do this our work should contribute to the social and economic stability of rural communities.

### PLANS FOR WORK ON ORGANIZATION IN 1945

The general plan of procedure in furthering the extension organization program for 1945 provides for:

- (1) The selection of two or three counties in each district for intensive work. The organization specialist will assist with the work in these counties.
- (2) The promotion of better organization in all other counties by the district agents with such materials and assistance from the organization specialist as may be possible.

#### A. Basis Of Selection Of Intensive Counties.

In selecting the counties for intensive work it seems important to consider the uses to be made of these intensive demonstrations. The following uses have been suggested:

- (1) Combine intensive work on organization with county demonstrations in extension methods, including current measurements of progress and efficiency.
- (2) Select counties with farm and home agents capable of extension leadership development.
- (3) Give attention to relationships with other agencies in these counties.
- (4) Have graduate students in extension methods, economics, and sociology do field work in the intensive counties.

#### B. General Promotion Of Organization Throughout The State Utilizing Results Of Work In Intensive Counties.

The following measures will help to advance the organization work in all counties. They provide for full use of all help that can be gotten from the intensive counties and at the same time leave the way open for individual initiative and unlimited progress in all other counties:

- (1) Hold conferences of farm and home agents in nearby counties each year in each county in which intensive work is being done.
- (2) Make all materials, plans, and procedures developed in the intensive counties available to agents in nearby counties.
- (3) Prepare conservative and appropriate publicity on work in intensive counties for Extension Division News and other publications.
- (4) Use the 25 or more agents in the intensive counties as discussion leaders and speakers on Extension programs, radio programs, etc. Put emphasis on the work done by farm people and agricultural agencies in these counties.
- (5) Develop work in intensive counties in cooperation with subject matter specialists so that methods and procedures worked out with specialists in these intensive counties will be encouraged and used by specialists in the promotion of subject matter work in all other counties.