

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL
COLLEGE AND POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING

EXTENSION SERVICE

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State Virginia

County Albemarle

NEGRO EXTENSION WORK
COUNTY AGENT WORK

Report of C.G. Greer

County Local Farm Agent

From Dec. 1, 1925

To Nov. 30, 1926

Annual Narrative Report

Approved
Dec. 17, 1926

John S. Chant, Dist. Agent

Organization

In order to carry on Extension work in the County successfully the leading farmers with the Extension Service decided to form County and Community organizations to get Extension Service to the people more effectively. Therefore the Extension work in the County is largely carried on through organizations; organized for the Agricultural development of communities and County.

County Advisory Board

The County organization is known as the County Advisory Board. This organization is made up of two Representatives from each community club and where there is not a club organized in a community the people select two good outstanding farmers to represent their community.

The Advisory Board held six meetings this year as follows: first meeting held to adopt County program of work for the year, second meeting to decide on place and time for the County Club boys outing. Third meeting to select delegate for the Hampton Farmers Conference they raised ten dollars for delegates expense at the conference, the money was raised by taxing each member a small sum. Fourth meeting to decide on time and place for the County Farmers Conference. Fifth meeting to make plans and work up interest in County Tour and sixth meeting to make plans for the County fair.

As a result of the Board's plans all these meetings were successfully held in the County.

Community Clubs

Seven community Clubs have been organized in the County and these Clubs are doing effective work. These seven community clubs have worked out a program of work and have carried them out. The program of work for each community club consists of some of the most important things that should be done for the advancement of each community.

For example the program for Blokhorn community club consists of growing a home supply of hay; five farmers are conducting demonstrations growing soy beans and cowpeas for hay. Growing home supply of corn, two farmers conducting corn demonstrations. Improve poultry by building sanitary poultry houses, culling flock and placing a pure bred cockerel at head of flock.

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Three farmers are conducting poultry demonstrations . Making hog pastures to cut down feed expense. One farmer conducting demonstration . The object of this program is to get all the farmers in community working by the program . They are thirty seven farmers in community and thirty two are following the program of work .

County Farmers Conference

The Annual County farmers conference was held this year at Middle Oak Church Bleasheim , Va. This was one of the best conferences held in the County . The program consisted of community club reports of work accomplished , five clubs reported the progress made during the year . One important thing accomplished in each community by farmers . Six farmers reported the work accomplished as follows , Seven poultry houses built , fifty farmers seeded soy beans for first time , three car loads lime used for soil improvement , ten farmers made hog pastures , Seventy farmers seeded crimson clover for cover crop and field selected seed corn .

Mr. Hinton of Hampton Inst. give a demonstration showing farmers some points to consider in selecting a good family cow . A poultry culling demonstration was given , four flocks have been culled since the conference .

Hampton Farmers Conference

Five farmers from the County attended the Hampton farmers conference held there in June . These farmers were very much interested in the demonstration given there showing how to get a stand of alfalfa , Each one of the delegates have made a report to their community club or Advisory Board and they are putting some of the things learned at Hampton in their program of work for next year . Mr. Dabney Catlett has resodded his poultry house and has purchased pure bred cockerels to head his flock as result of attending the conference at Hampton.

County Tour

Conducted County tour July 23 to give farmers over the County a chance to see some of the demonstrations conducted over the County . On this tour forty three farmers went in four communities visiting ten adult demonstrations and four club boys corn demonstrations . The adult demonstrations inspected on the tour were two hog pasture demonstrations , one breeding center , two corn demonstrations and five soy bean demonstrations . As result of this tour two farmers have made hog lots and have seeded them to rye for spring grazing .

County Fair

The Countyfair was held at the Piedmont Fair grounds Sept. 21 to 25 . The exhibits were of good quality and were well arranged .

The Colored farmers hold their fair on the grounds with the White fair each year , this gives White and Colored farmers a chance to see both departments. The soy bean hay exhibit was quite an improvement over last years this exhibit more than doubled it-self this year . There was a great improvement in the apple exhibit . The quality of all the exhibits showed they had Special attention .

Mr. Terrell who came to the fair last year and said he expected to grow caseys pure bred corn this year made an exhibit of caseys pure bred corn this fall . Mr. Terrell was induced to grw caseys by seeing the pure bred corn exhibit at the fair last year .

Corn

Corn is one of the leading grain crops in this County. Considerable stress is placed on importance of using improved methods in growing this crop , by improving soil , early plowing , thoroughly preparing seed bed , planting pure bred seed that have been tested and proper cultivation etc. Fifteen farmers are conducting demonstrations in growing corn this year . The average yield of corn per acre on demonstrations are forty five bushel . The average for the County this year is around eighteen bushels , this increase on demonstrations is due to using pure bred seed , plowing land early in fall and cultivating crop when necessary and making a good fertile seed bed . Most of these demonstrators turned down some kind of green crop such as crimson clover or rye and vetch etc. They also used barnyard manure .

Mr. T.E. Brown , Stony Point , Va. Produced fifty five bushels of corn to an acre by using good seed , applying barnyard manure and proper cultivation. Mr. Brown's corn attracted the attention of the forty three farmers that visited his place in July . He had five acres in the demonstration . Which made 275 bushel corn .

Hay

Seventeen farmers are conducting demonstrations in growing hay for home use . These farmers are growing soy beans , Cowpeas and mixed grasses for hay , They made an average of two tons of cured hay per acre . This is due to first preparing a good seed , inoculating seed such as soy beans etc. and using

Acid phosphate and fish bone fertilizers. The average yield for the County is about one ton to the acre .

Charlie Walker , Barboursville , Va. produced seven ton cured soy bean hay on three acres of land . James Wheeler Charlottesville, Va. raised four ton mixed hay on two acres land . Sixty five farmers improved on method of growing hay this year as result of demonstration work , These farmers have enough hay for their home supply .

Year Round Garden

This year in making out community programs of work with people of County four Community clubs saw the importance of putting in their program a year round garden , these clubs have been working faithfully to have good gardens in their communities. Seven farmers are conducting demonstrations in growing a garden all the year . The garden leader have been able to get thirty five other farmers to start a year round garden. These gardens are conducted by planting a variety of vegetables at proper time .

Soil Improvement

Eight farmers conducted Soil Improvement demonstrations . Five of these farmers turned down soy beans to improve the soil . Three farmers turned down cowpeas for soil improvement . These farmers seeded the soy bean and cowpea land turned down to wheat . As result of these demonstrations five other farmers turned down soy beans to improve the soil .

Fifteen farmers have mixed commercial fertilizers. Fifteen farmers used lime this year for soil improvement . Eight other farmers turned down other green crops for soil improvement and are taking better care of barnyard manure .

Orchards

Four farmers conducted demonstrations in pruning and spraying orchards for better results . Farmers conducting pruning demonstrations pruned eight hundred trees . Farmers conducting spraying demonstrations sprayed nine hundred and fifty trees .

Twelve other farmers have been induced to do more pruning and spraying this year through these demonstrations and the advice of community club leader. The total number of trees sprayed and pruned by being induced through demonstrations two thousand .

Family Cow

The demonstration conducted in feeding family cow has induced other farmers in that community to make better pastures.

This demonstration is conducted by first selecting a good cow, feeding her a balance ration and preparing a good pasture. The farmer conducting this demonstration has been producing milk and butter sufficient for his family of seven all the year from one cow. Six other farmers are taking better care of their cows by feeding a better ration.

Hog breeding center

The hog breeding center demonstration has been a great success this year. This breeding center is carried on to serve a community and to get a better stock of hogs in the community.

The breeding center is headed with a pure bred duróe boar. Fourteen farmers bred gows to this boar this year.

Hog Pastures

Four farmers conducted hog pasture demonstrations this year. These pastures were started to cut down the cost of feeding hogs and to induce other farmers to make hog pastures.

Each one of these demonstrations were conducted by having two pastures so the hogs could be changed from one to the other when necessary. Five other farmers made hog pastures this year for the first time.

Poultry houses

Seven farmers conducted poultry house construction demonstrations, building a modern poultry house with nest and roost poles arranged so they can be easily cleaned for mites and other lice. Six other modern poultry houses have been built and ~~the~~ six remodeled this year. All these houses are built with an open front and facing the south.

Poultry Culling

The extension service assisted in conducting eight culling demonstrations this year. Culled four hundred and eighty chicken, One hundred and sixty hens were sent to market as result of culling flock. Nine other flocks have been culled this fall.

Pure Bred Cockerels

Fourteen pure bred cockerels have been placed with farmers this year to improve their flock of chickens. These cockerels are placed with farmers owning three hundred fifty hens.

Mrs. Addie Watts, Earlysville, Va. purchased two pure bred barred rock cockerels last year and as result she has fifty pullets that are of good size and some of them have started to lay. Twenty farmers in addition to those conducting demonstrations purchased a pure bred cockerel this year. Mr. H.H. Southers and James Page, Blenheim, Va. after looking over the poultry at the County fair said to Local Agent I want you to get us four barred rock cockerels. We have decided to improve our chickens. These cockerels have been placed.

Miscellaneous Work

A clean up and white wash campaign was put on this year.

Three hundred sixty five farmers cleaned around their houses and out buildings. Seventy homes were white washed or painted. Two hundred eighty out buildings white washed.

Put on a cover crop campaign this fall and as result of this campaign seventy two farmers seeded some kind of cover crop to be turned down in spring or grazed. Gave ten demonstrations showing farmers how to treat wheat for smut. Established two poultry demonstration centers one at Simeon, Va. conducted by Henry Harres and the other at Earlysville, Va. conducted by Mrs. Addie Watts these demonstrations are keeping exact records of their flock. Number hens on hand, number chickens raised, cost of feed, daily egg record and sales etc.

A two day State meeting was held near Powhatan Court House by the Colored Extension workers over the State of Virginia and two delegates from each County where Extension work is located were present. The object of this meeting was to organize a State Advisory Board similar to the County Advisory Board.

This State Advisory Board is to study the Agricultural needs of the rural people and to co-operate with the White Advisory Council in making plans for the Agricultural development for the State of Virginia.

Junior Work

Farm Maker Clubs

There are eight farm maker clubs organized in the County, these clubs have a member ship of one hundred seven members.

The members of the eight clubs are conducting demonstrations in raising, corn, soy beans, poultry and pigs. Forty four corn demonstrations are being conducted. Forty eight demonstrations are carried on with poultry. Six boys are raising pigs and nine boys growing soy beans. Two club boys attended the State short course held at Hampton Inst. These boys represented two clubs. The clubs ~~raised~~ raised twelve dollars each to pay the boys expence.

County Club Boys Outing

The County club boys outing was held at White Hall, June 4. Thirty five members present. Boys conducted demonstration showing how to select good seed corn and how to make egg doll testers. Four clubs made progress report. The boys organized ~~County~~ County wide organization with proper officers. Farmers talked relative to importance of good strong club organizations among the boys.

CORN

Forty four club boys conducted demonstrations in growing corn this year, These boys produced fifteen hundred five bushel corn, They used barnyard manure, four-ten fertilizer and planted improved seed. Joseph Blue Stony Point, Va. produced sixty bushel corn on one acre land by using improved seed, proper cultivation and applying barnyard manure. Six club boys made a corn exhibit at the State Fair at Richmond, Va.

Soy Beans

Nine club boys conducted demonstrations growing soy beans for hay. The boys made an average of two ton cured hay to the acre by using good seed, making a good seed bed and applying three hundred pounds acid phosphate to the acre.

The hay is to be sold to the boys parents at market price.

Poultry

Forty eight club members conducted demonstrations in raising poultry this year. Thirty eight of these boys and girls completed their demonstrations. These club members

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raised one hundred ninty six pullets . these club members started their demonstrations by setting eggs in the spring , most of the members have barred rock chickens.

Pigs

The four pig club members completing their demonstrations produced nine hundred and seventy five pounds pork . The principle feed for the pigs during the summer were milk . The boys used grazing lots for their pigs . The pigs were finished on corn.

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