

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

### *Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

William C. Trenary, III

**Extension Agent**

Leona K. Barlow

**Extension Agent**

Nancy C. Wolfenden

**Assistant Agent**

John E. Longmire

**Assistant Agent**

Thomas Snodgrass

**Assistant Agent**



1963

Prince William  
County

I. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING  
OUT THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Prince William County

It is gratifying to see people take leadership responsibilities as a result of their participation in various phases of the Extension Program. Some people have said that they could not serve as president of a club or chairman of a committee, yet after several years of involvement in some Extension activity, they will finally take leadership responsibilities and carry out their duties very effectively.

It has been possible to reach out to more people, and reach new audiences through some of our committee action. The Agricultural and Home Economics committees meet, discuss the county situation and county problems and make recommendations for plans of action in their respective committees.

4-H leadership, finding, training and developing leaders and encouraging them into active service in their community, is most important to the successful operation of a 4-H club program in the county. More and more extension agents' time must be devoted to this phase of leadership development if the 4-H and youth program is going to keep pace with the influx of youth to our county. Sixteen new 4-H leaders have been secured this year. The County Nutrition Committee is new this year and some very favorable results will be reported elsewhere in this report.

## INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP

### Prince William County

On the other hand, it is disconcerting to find and train good leaders, then have them move from the county. Yet the leadership is valuable; they will, no doubt, work with people wherever they may be, even though not in this County, Virginia.

As our county is in the midst of a population explosion, with an expected doubling of population in the next 10 years, it is evident that we will be rich in potential leadership. Yet much of this potential will need to be searched out, educated and trained in the ways of Extension education. Due to the geographical divisions within the county, and present means of reaching the people through mass media, this is not an easy task.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT,  
AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Prince William County

1. Phase: Production of Higher Quality Corn Silage
2. Reason for Major Emphasis: Corn silage is one of the principal forages used by livestock farmers. With the increased emphasis on the use of corn silage as an economical source of TDN, there is a need to emphasize the importance of producing corn silage with an increase in both yield and quality.
3. Objectives: To raise the feeding value on corn silage produced in the county.
4. Progress: Farmers were enrolled in the 20 Ton Silage Club in April. One farmer conducted a corn silage production demonstration in cooperation with the V.P.I. Agronomy Department. Lack of rainfall, from early spring throughout the summer, caused a serious loss in yield. Many farmers cut their corn ahead of the normal harvest time with the ears still in the milk to soft dough stage. This plus the fact that the corn was not well eared lowered the quality of the corn silage made this year. Farmers have been urged to have forage samples made to determine exactly the feeding value of their silage and more interest has been shown in this program than in the previous year.

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT,  
AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Prince William County

1. Phase: Mastitis Control
2. Reason for Major Emphasis: A study made by Extension Dairy Specialists estimates that mastitis is a serious economic problem to county dairymen and is costing them \$148,000.00 or an average of \$2300.00 per herd.
3. Objectives: To reduce the incidence of mastitis and thereby increase the dairymen's net income.
4. Progress: Plans for this program were made on the basis that training meetings for agents and demonstrators would be held early in the year and that concentrated assistance from the Extension Dairy Specialists would be available in the district. Since this part of the program did not develop, no organized program was developed in the county. Definite plans have now been made to set this program up for next year. Several dairymen were given individual help in cooperation with the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers' Association fieldmen and the mastitis calendars, developed by the V.P.I. Dairy Science Department, were mailed to all dairymen in the county with a cover letter giving suggestions for their use.

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT,  
AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Prince William County

Other Extension Activities

1. Control of the alfalfa weevil with fertilizer-heptachlor mixtures and granular heptachlor spread in the fall of 1962 was generally poor. Many farmers using these materials found it necessary to spray one or two times with malathion in the spring. The fact that the use of heptachlor was not recommended this fall was publicized through radio, newspaper, and personal contacts.
2. Soil sample boxes were made available throughout the year and recommendations for the use of fertilizer and lime based on soil tests were made for individual farmers. Recommendations were made on all samples submitted by farmers signing up for ACP practices. Farmers and new land owners were given assistance during the year in establishing crop rotations, making seeding plans, and controlling insects and weeds.
3. The Northern Virginia Forage Conference held in Middleburg on December 4 and 5 was publicized through the newspaper, radio, and a circular letter.
4. Assistance was given with the operation of the Fauquier Wool Pool through which the county sheep producers market their wool. Several producers were given assistance in locating shearers and arrangements were made for a local feed dealer to handle the wool bags at no extra cost.

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT,  
AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Prince William County

5. A farmers' tax meeting was conducted by W.J. Nuckols, Jr., Associate Extension Agricultural Economist, in January. Three hundred copies of the 1963 Edition of the Farmers' Tax Guide were distributed. The availability of V.P.I. Record Books 17 and 18 for keeping cash records and farm inventory was publicized and a large number of these were requested.
6. A great deal of time was spent working with the three farmers enrolled in the Electronic Farm Record Program in checking and coding monthly reports. The farm management assistant agent helped in explaining the yearly analysis to the farmers and in answering questions as they came up during the year. Some time was spent at the end of the year making arrangements for the farm management school which will be held early in 1964.
7. The V.P.I. Florist Newsletter was sent to five county florists during the year.
8. The percentage of DHIA members on EDPM increased during the year from 52% to 67%. The program for the DHIA annual was presented by Dr. V. L. Baldwin, Associate Extension Dairy Specialist, on forages and forage feeding systems. Trophies were presented to the high herds in milk and butterfat production in 1962.

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT,  
AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Prince William County

9. A Small Fruit and Vegetable School was held in March by H.B. Aroian and Donald E. Hudson of the Department of Horticulture.
10. Assistance was given to the County Disaster Committee in compiling data on the drought situation to be used in requesting that the county be declared a drought disaster area. Considerable time has been spent during the year in working with farmers on problems in feeding of livestock and economics that have arisen as a result of the drought.
11. Beef cattle farmers consigned 120 calves to the Feeder Calf and Yearling Sales held in Winchester and Marshall. Assistance was given in the field inspection of the calves and at one sale.
12. The sheep scabies inspection program was completed in February. This involved the location of an inspector and coordination of his work with the area veterinarian.
13. Copies of the farm building plans most often requested were kept on file and made available throughout the year.
14. Throughout the year requests were handled for information on lawn care, insect and disease control for ornamental plants, general insect identification and control, tree and small fruits, and poultry.

PROJECT AREA: MARKETING AND UTILIZATION OF  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Prince William County

1. Phase: Informational Services to Feed, Seed, and Fertilizer Dealers.
2. Reason for Major Emphasis: All farmers have contact sometime during the year with a feed, seed, or fertilizer dealer and is influenced by the dealer's recommendations. Since the extension service can not maintain a direct contact with all farmers, a planned program was needed to keep these dealers up to date on new developments and recommendations in agriculture.
3. Objectives: To keep feed, seed, and fertilizer dealers up to date of the latest research developments, V.P.I. recommendations, and material and services available from the extension service.
4. Progress: All dealers were furnished publications in quantity for distribution to customers on the subjects of recommended field crop varieties, weed control, fertilization, and alfalfa weevil control. Dealers were notified of all meetings of interest held in the county and nearby area. Numerous questions were answered for the dealers and many people were referred by dealers to our office for assistance. The county agent presented information on fertilizer recommendations at meetings arranged by two dealers.

PROJECT AREA: EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

Prince William County

1. Phase: Foods and Nutrition
2. Reason for Major Emphasis: Efforts were made to improve the health of our people through education about nutrition. Food habits are changed very slowly and particular efforts were made with the youth. The Kennedy physical fitness program pointed up a great need for improvements in a knowledge and application of good nutrition practices in the home. The need for consumer education in purchase and preparation of foods was also evident.
3. Objectives: To manage the spending of the food dollar when buying groceries. To know nutritional values of foods in order that family will get the proper foods. To know how to prepare foods so that food values are not wasted. To serve foods in interesting and appetizing manner and pleasant surroundings. To improve family's health and well being through knowledge offered above.
4. Progress: Three demonstrations were included in the regular Home Demonstration Club program, as follows: Food vs. Dollars. - Buy nutritional foods for family health. This is very important as it relates to management of family income. - Healthful party snacks, desserts, and refreshments. - Nutritious salads for winter months. Management of time and money are involved in these two demonstrations.

PROJECT AREA: EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

Prince William County

4. cont. Leaders were trained by agents and Nutrition Specialists from Agricultural College, who in turn gave most of the food demonstrations to their clubs. Around three-hundred-fifty women were reached with this information. The educational exhibits at the Fair on nutrition, both adult and 4-H told a message to the many people viewing exhibits in the building.

The five weight control groups in the county were a great help to those participating. About seventy five people enrolled in the classes with about two-thirds making definite progress in weight loss. They also concluded the class with the feeling that some specific eating habits were changed, as a result of the study of foods, calories, and nutritional requirements, etc. Two of these groups have reported during this last quarter on weight changes since the end of the organized program.

As a result of the Home Economics Committee on Nutrition, much work was done with a selected group of school children. This activity is reported as one of the success stories.

The latest research bulletins from USDA and Virginia Agricultural Extension Service have been given out to the public throughout the year. These are available on the bulletin racks in our office at all times.