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Annual Report

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service



1955

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county

COUNTY AGENTS' NARRATIVE REPORT
DECEMBER 1, 1955 TO NOVEMBER 30, 1956

FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

JOHN T. WOLFE, COUNTY AGENT - December 1, 1954 - November 30, 1955

H. J. GERREN, JR., ASSISTANT CO. AGENT - Dec. 1, 1954 - Sept. 31, 1955

E. R. HARRIS, JR., ASSISTANT CO. AGENT - Jan. 1, 1955 - November 30, 1955

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I. PLAN OF WORK

1. How Organized

In preparing the Plan of Work for the year, meetings of the Commodity and Special Committees were held in December and January. These Committees included Agronomy, Dairy, Fruit, Livestock, Poultry, 4-H Club, Farm and Home Development and Public Affairs. The members of these committees were selected by the County Agricultural Council and the County Agricultural Extension Workers. In addition to the farmer members of the committees, representatives of the County Public Agricultural Agencies were included. These committees also included business men and bankers.

Each of the committees met separately with County Agricultural Extension Workers and an Extension Specialist from V. P. I. when possible. The problems, situations and needs warranting their attention were discussed. After a thorough discussion of these matters, each committee sought to set up objectives and major projects that would provide information and assistance to farmers.

2. Type of Agriculture and General Situation

Before taking up each major and minor line of work for the year, some reference should be made to the type of agriculture and the present situation in the county. The agriculture in the county in the past few years has undergone a trend toward more diversified farming. The principle income from agriculture comes from fruit, livestock and poultry operations. There are 1298 farms with an average of approximately 140 acres. The population of the county is approximately 20,000 and the population of the county seat, Winchester, is located near the center of the county. Its population is 16,000 and both have been steadily growing during the past few years. Many new homes are being built in and around Winchester which has increased the number of urban families, thereby adding to the extension work.

The topography of the county varies a great deal making possible many different types of farming operations. This is shown in evidence in that the poultry industry, which was scarcely a factor even as late as 1940, has now more than 100,000 laying hens, 1,000,000 broilers and approximately 200,000 turkeys. The income from poultry is only exceeded by that of fruit and livestock. There are more than 15,000 beef cattle on Frederick County Farms, a sizable increase from the 2,229 listed in 1950. The fruit industry is a dominant factor in the economic life of this area. Apple Tree numbers have steadily decreased in the past few years and at the present time this decrease has been curtailed and almost as many young trees are being set out as old orchards are abandoned. Our county was very fortunate in that we had a good crop of apples and peaches in spite of this being one of the off years for apples. Prices were relatively good because of other sections of the country being damaged by excessive cold temperatures.

Of the other types of agriculture, the trend to grassland farming continues on the increase. More alfalfa and improved pastures are being seeded each year. This means that corn and small grain crops are on the decrease but the production per acre is up. Small grain yields this year were very good but corn suffered some dry weather and excessive heat during the critical stage in July and early August. Corn yields are down considerably due to these weather conditions. The rainfall in our county this year has been about normal and most of the other crops, other than corn, have produced very well. Most of our farmers cut alfalfa four times and some five.

II. COMMODITY PROJECTS

1. Agronomy

The problem of producing ample amounts of feed the year round for live-stock was the primary reason for developing an Agronomy Program for the county. This program covered pasture improvement, irrigation, higher corn yields, disease and insect control of forage crops and grass ensilage.

A. Pasture Improvement

The County Pasture Improvement Contest was conducted again this year. It was held for the purpose of developing more interest and acquainting farmers with improved practices for securing higher yields. When the pasture committee met early in the year, plans were made to continue the pasture contest on a district basis thereby securing more participants. This was not done due to emphasis in other phases of our agronomy program such as the corn contest, but in 1956 the pasture contest will be conducted on a district basis because we are discontinuing the corn contest which utilizes a good deal of time and we feel we have made about as much progress as can be expected in corn growing for the time being. Since the pasture contest was conducted on a county-wide basis, participation was not as great as we had hoped it would be. We had 17 farmers who participated in the pasture contest and 4 of the 5 districts in the contest were represented. Due to publicity by means of letter, farm visits and radio regarding the pasture contest, more farmers are seeding alfalfa and legume and grass mixtures. Five winners were selected in the contest and will be recognized at the Annual Corn, Pasture and Fruit Recognition Banquet to be held on December 16, 1955. Most of the winners in this year's contest were dairy farmers and have been during the 4 years the contest has been held. Due to the intensified program of dairy operations, we plan next year to divide the contest into two sections suitable to dairy and livestock operations. We feel this will encourage more participation.

B. Higher Corn Yields

The 100 bushel corn club was continued in 1955 with 48 farmers participating. We have experienced lower corn yields this year due to the dry, hot period during July and early August which hit during the pollination season for most corn crops. The main results of the corn contest, which we have witnessed during the 7 years it has been held, is that farmers are using more fertilizer and are planting their corn on land best suited to corn growing.

C. Disease, Insect and Weed Control in Forage Crops

One of the major problems was that of controlling spittlebug in alfalfa. Two spittlebug control demonstrations were held on April 3th. In spite of rain during the morning demonstration, 45 people attended and since the demonstration was held near James Wood High School, the group met in one of the classrooms and were shown movies on spittlebug control along with J. O. Rowell, Extension Entomologist from V. P. I., answering questions. The afternoon demonstration was held and the sprayers were demonstrated using water because of the wet conditions. About 25 people attended the afternoon demonstration and in spite of incimate weather, we consider the demonstration successful because we had many inquires for recommendations immediately following these demonstrations. The equipment and chemical dealers in Winchester cooperated in putting on these demonstrations

by furnishing the necessary equipment and spray materials. One meeting was held at which time insect and weed control in corn and forage crops was discussed. Many requests were filled regarding recommendations on spraying corn and forage crops for weed control. In addition to the above activities, many farmers requested information on fertilization and small grain recommendations and made use of the soil testing service. Many farmers attended the Winter and Summer Agricultural Meetings at the Middleburg Experiment Station along with the County Agents. This meeting was publicized through radio, newspaper, circular letter and personal contact to encourage attendance.

2. Livestock

1. This year marketing of livestock was the greatest problem of farmers. Livestock prices leveled off this year about equal to prices received last year. The situation was helped some also by the good growing season which afforded pasture and hay this year. With the steady increase of livestock in the county and with so many people depending on livestock as their main source of income, the extension workers attempted to develop a program early in the year to help with the management and marketing of this livestock.

A. Feeder Calf Sale

Approximately 75 farmers from our county consigned to the Spring and Fall Feeder Calf and Yearling Sales which were participated in by several Northern Virginia Counties. Approximately 1400 calves were consigned to these sales by our farmers. The Spring Feeder Calf Sale was held in April at which time 1199 head sold for an average of \$23.86 cwt. In the fall feeder calf sale, 2799 calves were sold at an average price of \$21.79 cwt. For the first time a Shorthorn Feeder Calf Sale was held in Winchester and the County Agent cooperated with the American Shorthorn Association to put on this sale. At this sale, 616 Shorthorn Calves were sold for an average of \$24.34 cwt. Also a Yearling Sale was held for the first time at Winchester at which time 1307 head sold for an average of \$19.36 cwt. The County Agent spent a great deal of time working with these sales and we consider them very successful and the average price above local auction price to be some 4 to 6 dollars cwt. Other sales which farmers in the county participated were the Winter Registered Hog Sale, Tri-Breed Sale of Registered Beef Cattle, Winchester Fall Registered Hereford Sale, Annual Registered Shorthorn Sale and the Registered Ram Sale of which all were held at the Winchester Livestock Markets.

B. Sheep Shearing School

Many of our farmers have had trouble finding someone to shear their sheep and our county needed additional people trained to shear sheep. With these facts in mind, a sheep shearing school was held on April 19, the first one ever held in our county. The neighboring counties were invited and George A. Allan, Sheep Specialist from V. P. I., was in charge of the school. Approximately 50 farmers and 4-H members attended the school which we thought was very successful.

C. Information on Recommended Practices

Topics of current interest were provided from time to time, such as the use and location of Better Sires, Bang's Control through calftlood vaccination, fly control, control of internal and external parasites in sheep and hogs, lice and grub control in cattle and building plans for a catching pen and loading chute. One demonstration was held on fly control.

We had set up in our plan of work to hold a calf worming demonstration and a lice and grub control demonstration between November 15 and November 31. We plan to hold these demonstrations early in December. The main reason for holding the calf worming demonstration is that according to available information, nearly every calf tested by the V. P. I. Experiment Station, contains worms or worm larvae.

3. Dairying

The dairy farmer faced some decline in prices this year but was helped a great deal in our county by the good growing season. Our extension program centered mainly toward the problem of increasing production through better feeding and management practices.

A. Dairy Herd Improvement Association

We have six commercial dairy herds participating in the Frederick-Clarke Dairy Herd Improvement Association. Irvin Cather, the local superintendent, resigned effective August 1 at which time we were very fortunate in securing W. R. Bierer, local dairyman, to assume his duty as supervisor. Summer meetings of the DHIA were held on various dairy farms at which time members were invited to tour the farm and discuss their mutual problems. Also an annual meeting was held at which time herd records were discussed with the individual members and recommendations made for improvement. We had one additional dairyman to join the DHIA this year and we hope to get several others to join as we think they need the DHIA.

B. Artificial Breeding

During the past year, Frederick County Farmers have had opportunities to breed with 3 different artificial breeding establishments. The three operations in our county include the Frederick-Clarke Artificial Breeding Association, Curtis Candy Company and the American Breeders Association. The first two have been operating in the county for 2 years and the last one came to the county during the past 3 months. There has been an increased number of cows bred artificially this year and I think this will improve the quality of our dairy cattle.

C. Hay Drying Meeting

A meeting was held on March 16 in cooperation with the County Agents in Clarke and Warren Counties and the Northern Virginia Power Company Farm Representative. We felt the need for this type meeting because feed costs make up a big share of the expenses in our dairy operations. The meeting was held in the form of a panel discussion with farmers with hay drying experience serving along with professional representatives. The meeting was well attended and we feel helped our dairymen become more conscious of the importance of quality hay in their dairy operations.

D. Fly Control Demonstration

A fly control demonstration, using malathion as bait, was conducted on the farm of L. P. Cole. Since malathion is relatively a new material, we thought it necessary to hold a demonstration on the use of this material again this year. The equipment and chemical dealers furnished the necessary sprayers and materials for the demonstration. Due to this demonstration and the publicity given the meeting, many requests were filled regarding fly control.

E. Official Herd Classification Meeting

We thought it necessary to hold an official herd classification meeting because we thought many of our farmers needed to know more about selecting quality cows to go into their herds. This demonstration was held at which time a representative from the American Holstein-Friesian Association explained the different classifications and why various animals fall in the classification. The dairymen in our county were invited and several attended and we think received a lot of valuable information.

Several newspaper articles were publicized calling attention to the value of milk production and why people should use more milk. This was also done on the radio and at more of our meetings held during the year. We had this in cooperation with the National Advertising and Promotional Program which was put on by the American Dairymen Association.

4. Poultry

Marketing continued to be one of the greatest problems for poultrymen in our county. This situation has been improved somewhat due to the poultry auction market which was established last year. The other major problem has been that of better efficiency.

A. Live Poultry Auction

The Extension Service in the county cooperated in the establishment of the live poultry auction which operated in Winchester through early spring, at which time it was moved to Wardensville, W. Va. because it would be more centrally located for the poultrymen of that area. The auction has operated very successfully this year and many of our growers sold their poultry through the auction. The auctions are still held weekly and we feel the auction has stabilized poultry prices a good deal in our county.

B. Poultry Efficiency Contest

One of the members of our poultry committee suggested holding a Poultry Efficiency Contest, set up similar to the Corn, Pasture and Fruit Contests which have been held in our county for a number of years. The purpose of this contest would be to encourage more efficiency among our poultry growers. Contest rules were organized by a committee at V. P. I. for each phase of poultry production, including broilers and turkeys. The rules and regulations were mimeographed and sent to the feed contractors in the county and they were asked to discuss the contest with the growers and solicit their participation. The contest is scheduled to end June 30, 1956 at which time a committee will select the winners and a meeting will be held to recognize the winners. This meeting will be held in the form of a chicken barbeque. We hope through this contest, to encourage more efficiency among our growers.

C. Poultry Visits

Periodic visits were made to poultrymen in the county by the County Extension Agents and a Specialist from V. P. I. for the purpose of discussing some of their individual problems. These visits were made either at the requests of the growers, or the poultrymen would be selected at random in various parts of the county for these periodic visits. We endeavor to visit each poultryman each year. Since Lee Herrick, Poultry Specialist from V. P. I., has gone on leave of absence, visits have not been made since July. We hope it will be possible

to secure assistance from Denver Bragg, Poultry Specialist from V. P. I., on some of these visits during the coming year.

Several requests were filled regarding ventilation problems and building plans. We secured the help of Dan Kite, Extension Engineer, for several of these problems.

5. Fruit

The production of apples, peaches and cherries is the major type of agriculture in the county. For several years, orchards have been going out of production faster than new plantings of these fruits have been made. There are many new plantings going in now and these plantings, almost but not quite, equal the amount of trees going out. The fruit growers in the county are very fortunate this year because we had a nice crop of apples and peaches. The crop was much heavier than anticipated and markets were more valuable because of lower production in other areas of the eastern United States. The greatest problem to the fruit growers this year was on production problems concerning diseases and insects. The fruit committee took this into consideration when this year's plan of work was printed at the beginning of the year.

A. Fruit Growers Short Course

The Annual Fruit Growers Short Course was held on March 1 with 230 attending. We considered the short course this year one of the most outstanding ones we have ever held. The topics covered at the meeting included discussions of the 1955 fruit spray program for both apples and peaches, mouse control in orchards, helicopter spraying and 1955 fruit prospects. Orchard equipment was put on display by machinery dealers and the luncheon was also provided for by machinery and fertilizer dealers. We will continue the annual fruit growers short course because it affords folks an opportunity to take advantage of discussions on up-to-date topics concerning the fruit industry who are not able to attend the state meeting of the Horticulture Society held annually in Roanoke.

B. Demonstrations

Two pruning and mouse control demonstrations were held in December to provide technical information and assistance to growers to help them do a better job this year. Another demonstration was held in the form of a pickering school for the benefit of the Bahamian and Migratory workers, and others. This demonstration was put on by the use of slides, charts and moving pictures and Fred R. Breiling, Extension Horticulturist from V. P. I., was in charge.

C. Twilight Orchard Meeting

Our first Twilight Fruit Growers Meeting was held on July 22 at the orchard owned by C. Hardy Grim. The program included a Tour of Standard and Experimental Fungicidal Spray Plots, which was conducted by ~~Dr. D. H. Hill~~ A. B. Grove, from the Winchester Fruit Research Laboratory. Dr. D. H. Hill, also from the Fruit Research Laboratory, discussed Insect Control for the Remainder of the season. Dr. Howard A. Rollins, Horticulturist at the Winchester Fruit Research Laboratory, discussed Spray Residue Tolerances and John Watson, Executive Secretary of the Virginia Horticulture Society, made a few comments on fruit marketing situations. Refreshments were served and we had a total of 92 people in attendance. This is the first meeting of this nature we have held and we considered it very successful and plan to hold another meeting of this type

next year.

D. Monthly Meetings

Periodic meetings were held throughout the year for Frederick County Fruit Growers. The topics at these meetings for this year included discussions pertaining to disease and insect control, market and general management and general fruit production. Leading authorities were secured to discuss these different topics.

Several of our growers, professional bankers and others attended the Annual Horticulture Society Meeting held in January and one of our local growers, J. K. Robinson, served as President of the Society.

E. Quality Apple Production Contest

The Frederick County Quality Apple Production Contest was conducted again this year to stimulate more interest in the improvement, marketing and production of apples. We consider this year's contest to be the most successful one we have held thusfar. The participation increased from 54 members last year to 54 members this year. The contest included three different sections; Production, Processing and Apple Show. Banks and various business firms contributed money to be used for awards. Prizes totaling over \$700 will be awarded the winners in different classes at the Annual Banquet scheduled for December 16, which is held in cooperation with the Corn and Pasture Contestants. The Apple Show was held during National Apple Week and was one of the main attractions locally to call attention to our fruit industry by the public. Several radio broadcasts were devoted to discussions of various fruit topics during the year and Dr. H. A. Rollins, Horticulturist from the Winchester Fruit Research Laboratory, has been most cooperative in the county fruit program in all phases this year.

F. Farm Labor

For the past several years, this area has been short of apple pickers during the harvest season and we do not look for it to improve. Approximately 850 Migratory and Bahamian workers were housed at the Frederick County Fruit Growers Labor Camp to pick apples, peaches and cherries in our county and surrounding counties. The Extension Agents cooperated with the Frederick County Fruit Growers in anyway needed in the operation of this camp and anyother problem where necessary. Approximately 1,000,000 bushels of fruit was harvested by these workers housed at the local labor camp.

III. OTHER ADULT ACTIVITIES

A. Rural Urban Meeting

For a number of years the Winchester Rotary Club entertained the farmers of the county by inviting them to one of their special luncheon meetings and prepared a program of special interest for them. Five years ago, the Frederick County Board of Agriculture appointed a committee to organize a group of farmers to return the Winchester Rotary Club's fine jester. Early last year, when the Commodity Committee met, it was suggested by Landon B. Whitacre, who served on the Fruit Committee, that we again entertain the Winchester Rotary Club. A Committee was named and Mr. Whitacre acted as Chairman and the Rural-Urban Dinner, as it is called, was held on December 10. About 90 farmers invited a Rotary Club Member as his guest at a dinner meeting held at the James Wood High School

Cafeteria. Claude A. Mahoney, Farm News Announcer, CBS Radio Network, Washington, D. C., was principle speaker and G. H. Clark, District Agent, served as Toastmaster for the occasion. We consider this one of our most outstanding meetings during the year and also think it brings about better understanding and improves the relationship between the city and county people.

B. Tax Structure of Virginia

Mr. D. U. Lawrence, Associate Extension Economist from V. F. I., gave a talk at the February meeting of the Round Hill Ruritan Club entitled, "What State Services to we Want and How Should We Pay For Them." Approximately 200 additional people were invited which included farmers, Board of Supervisor Members, and other county officials. Our county consolidated high school was completed and used for the first time in 1950 and already a need for additional classroom space exists. Since many folks are wondering how money can be raised to pay for these necessary facilities, the County Agricultural Council thought it necessary to hold such a meeting to inform some of the citizens of our county of what methods might be used to finance not only the county school system but the state as a whole. I think more meetings of this nature should be held.

C. Beauty Jamboree

On February 1, 2 and 3, the Curtis Publishing Company of Philadelphia presented a Beauty Jamboree in cooperation with the Home Demonstration Clubs in our county. This Jamboree has only been held in about 20 states in the United States and the approximate cost is around \$10,000. Mr. H. F. Byrd, Jr., Editor of the Winchester Evening Star, was the responsible person locally for the Curtis Publishing Company selecting our county for this affair. On February 3, Better Farming Magazine officials, along with representatives of the advertising ~~firm~~ firm associates paid a special visit to our county for the purpose of visiting the Jamboree and some of our farms. A tour was lined up for these folks and the County Extension Agent acted as guide for the group. The Beauty Jamboree and tour was featured in the June issue of the Better Farming Magazine.

D. Income Tax Meeting

Social Security and Farmers Income Tax Meeting

Since we had not held a meeting dealing with Social Security and Farmers Income Tax for 2 years, it was decided to hold one this year to give our farm folks an opportunity to ask questions regarding these programs. The meeting this year was the best attended with approximately 125 people in attendance. Mr. W. J. Ruckols, Associate Extension Agricultural Economist, discussed the income tax for farmers and Harry A. Nelson, District Supervisor of the Social Security Administration, discussed Social Security as it applies to farmers.

E. Master Farm Family

The E. W. Adams, Jr. Family, in Gainesboro District, received the Master Farm Family Award this year and it is the first time in the history of our county that a family have been honored in this achievement. The award was made possible by the Progressive Farmer Magazine and Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, joint sponsors of the Master Farm Family Award Program. Much publicity was given the family in our county and we feel that through the accomplishment, others will be stimulated to better their activities. The award meeting was held at the Adams home on October 25 with approximately 150 people in attendance. A very attractive plaque was presented the family by William C. Laine, Associate Editor of the Progressive Farmer Magazine. Philip Gabler, Secretary of the Win-

Chester Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, also presented the family with a resolution of the Board of Director from the Chamber expressing their congratulations to the family for their accomplishment.

IV. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

1. Organization

The Farm and Home Development Program was organized in this county in November, 1954. A meeting of the County Agricultural Council was held and Mr. G. H. Clark, District Extension Agent, and Miss Eva Minnix, District Home Agent, explained the purpose of the program and how it would be conducted. At this meeting, a committee was appointed and it was for the purpose of selecting the area within the county in which the program would function. In December of 1954, the committee met and decided that the Clearbrook area, in Stonewall District north of Winchester, was best suited for the operation of the program. The phases of agriculture carried on in the county are represented in this area.

In January, 1955 Mr. H. J. Gerken, Jr. started working fulltime on the farm side of the program. A number of farms were visited and 20 individual farmers were originally selected to work with. However, one farm was dropped because the farm was sold and the family was no longer engaged in farming. An additional farm was picked up in May and two more in July making the present total 22.

From January until August, Mr. Gerken worked fulltime on the program and did quite extensive work. However, during the months of July and August, not a good deal of work was accomplished because of Extension Short Course, 4-H Club Camp, etc. With a few exceptions, all the farms were visited at least once or twice each month, and several of these visits were made with the home agent in connection with the homestead of the program.

2. Approach

In approaching the family, the appointment was normally made with the farmer and his wife at a time that would be convenient to them. At the specified time, the farm and home development program was explained in detail to the family. When the family agreed to participate, return visits were made every few days in order to become better acquainted with the existing problem and general layout of the farm and home.

3. Progress

About $\frac{1}{2}$ of the participating farms have been mapped and the maps sent to V. P. I. for blueprinting. It is felt that the maps will be extremely helpful on planning the crop rotation and feed programs.

Some soil testing has been done on all of the farms and on many of them a complete soil test has been accomplished. In connection with the soil testing, fertilizer recommendations have been made. Some seeding recommendations have also been made on the farms.

A good deal of planning has been done on feed programs and better management for the livestock farmers. One farmer who felt like he was going to be short on feed, was advised to seed some sudan grass for a quick feed crop. This turned out to be very successful.

Quite extensive work in livestock management was carried on with several of the farmers. Aid and advice was given in selecting herd bulls and improvement cows. Information and practical demonstrations were given on sheep dipping, sheep dosing and trimming of feet.

Extension Specialists were called in for advice on orchard problems and poultry problems. Also an Agricultural Engineer was asked to give a suggested plan for remodeling a barn.

4. Summary

It is felt that some progress has been made in the farm and home development program; however, there is very few major accomplishments to point out because of the short length of time the program has been in effect.

As of yet, there has been no refusals from families who have been asked to participate in the program. In one case, a participating family recommended a neighboring family as a prospective participant. The above mentioned facts tend to show that the majority of people have a real interest in seeing the program succeed.

The county was without a farm and home development agent from August 16 until November 16, when William D. Fletcher was placed in the county to carry on the work. Only a few family visits were made after August 16; however, it is hoped that during the coming year the program will progress.

V. 4-H CLUB PROGRAM

The male leadership program has had a poor showing this past year. Two new male leaders, Mr. S. M. Smith and Mr. J. V. Sumption, volunteered to be the organizational leaders for the two new clubs formed during the year. There is only one other active organizational leader, W. R. Bierer, who also works at a dairy project leader. We have no sponsor leaders. The junior leadership program could be built up considerably. With the rapid turnover of male assistant agents in Frederick County, a more positive program of male leadership would be a most desirable and necessary effort.

A. Sheep

Goals set for project work for the boys were in the most completed. Six out of seven boys completed records on the farm sheep flock. Our goal of adding two more sheep flocks was fulfilled with the aid of the Kiwanis Sheep Chain. Five boys participated in a sheep shearing school. All five found it not so easy as they had expected. The 4-H Market Lamb Show and Sale was held on May 16. One hundred and four lambs were sold from Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Rappahannock Counties.

The members of the Agricultural Committee of the local Kiwanis Club inspired by the Sears Roebuck Pig Chain, decided to start a sheep chain in Frederick County. It was initiated this past spring and looks very promising. Here's the way it works. One 4-H member receives five Western Ewes each May. They were bought the first time by the Kiwanis Club, but will be bought by the previous years project member next year and in previous years with the receipts from his lambs. Thus an old project member will buy the new project member five ewes each year. It was decided that the ram, a pure-bred Hampshire, now, would be bought by the Kiwanis Club as often as necessary. This was figured to be every two to three years. Local sponsorship of projects like this are genuine appreciated. This we feel has possibilities in other areas.

B. Beef

The 4-H joint Baby Beef Show and Sale, with Clarke County under the sponsorship of the Winchester Chamber of Commerce, was held on Monday, April 25. The show and sale was successful. Billy Ramey, whose record was submitted to Blacksburg in Meat Animal competition, had the Grand Champion Steer. Other 4-H Frederick County boys to show well in this competition were Rozzie Brown, who had the Reserve Champion Hereford Steer, and Roy McDonald, who had the Reserve Champion Angus Steer. The 4-H Commercial Steer Show and Sale was held on May 16. Nineteen steers were consigned by Frederick County 4-H members. Kenneth and Roy McDonald, of Stephens City, had the champion pen of three and the champion pair. Low market prices dampened only somewhat the boys' enthusiasm. Our beef project program fell down in only one respect, the encouragement of more boys to carry heifer projects in an effort to form a basis for a herd. Individual help in feeding, fitting and showing was given all boys carry baby Beef projects. Our policy was to visit each boy, at least every other Saturday morning.

The stimulus that the Sears and Roebuck Company has given to the breeding pig project in this county is hard to evaluate. The further stimulus that it has given 4-H members carrying this project is equally as hard to evaluate. Five boys living near and around Gore, Va. received their weanling Duroc pigs last fall one year ago. The five boys are: Donald Whitacre, Eldridge Pugh,

Bradley Pugh, Jimmy and Tommy Watt. Since then they have met at the Mount Hebron Baptist Church in Gore on the first Friday of each month. Their's is a good club, although small and well supervised by an interested parent, Mr. S. M. Pugh. The pig chain has moved, as it does in the fall of each year, but still the club continues to function.

C. Poultry

Poultry farmers' sons, for instance, Tommy Crabill and Donnie Henshaw, have completed some outstanding project work. Both these boys not only did good project work but completed successfully in the Frederick County Fair. An attempt was made to visit the 4-H members carrying poultry projects. Much to my surprise, some boys only had two or three chickens and were calling this a poultry project. Our poultry program fell down in two respects. We had no weekend poultry camp and no arca poultry field day.

D. Dairy

Those who carry dairy projects in the county are few, but not lacking in quality. 4-H dairy members took many places in three fall fairs: Clarke County Fair, Frederick County Fair and the Northern Virginia District Dairy Show. This last show was held at Warrenton, Va. Competing from this county were: Dickie Goode, Susan Stine and Susan Bierer. Susan Bierer's heifer calf was first in the Holstein class of some sixty animals. Susan Stine's cow was Reserve Champion, although dry. The same cow was Grand Champion of this same show two years previous.

In the 1955 Plan of Work, we set our 4-H goal to participate in eighteen individual and group contests. Our boys entered into thirteen of these.

The 100 bushel corn contest was won by Charles and Harold Adams with a record of 113.96 bushels per acre. They were not only high in the 4-H corn contest but they were also high for farmers, 4-H and F. F. A. Second in the contest was Richard Berryhill with 110.26 bushels per acre.

Judging Contests for eight Northern Virginia Counties were held two Saturday mornings on the 7th and 14th of May. They were held in conjunction with the Shorthorn and Tri-Breed Sales. 4-H and F. F. A. teams participated. Several individual boys in the county won classes. The James Wood Senior Team, composed of Ronnie Brown, Kenneth McDonald and Billy Grin, won the team championship on the second Saturday. It is significant that on the second Saturday 12 out of the 17 4-H clubs in the county had complete teams participating. Three other clubs had incomplete teams.

The county trained dairy, livestock and poultry judging teams. The dairy team composed of Donald Cole, Pat McTiernan, Susan Stine and Susan Bierer, and Susan Bierer placed sixth out of ten in Lynchburg. Donald Cole was fifth high. The team did not stand high enough to go to Short Course. The livestock judging team placed third in Richmond and won a trip to Short Course. On the team we had Billy Ramey, who was third high individual, Billy Grin, Ronnie Miller and Kenneth McDonald. In the District Poultry Contest at Luray, the Frederick County Team, composed of Donnie Henshaw, Irvin Williams and James Sumption, placed fourth out of six and won a trip to the Short Course. Irvin Williams was high individual for the entire contest, scoring a 908 out of a possible 950. The second closed man was 49 points away.

We had no Egg Grading or Poultry Demonstration Team.

We set for our goal, to enter the following individual contests: Achievement, Electricity, Tractor Maintenance, Meat Animal, Garden, Dairy, Forestry, Crops, Leadership and Poultry Achievement. The following boys completed in most of these contests:

Electricity	- Robert Lockhart
Meat Animal	- Billy Ramsey
	Kenneth McDonald
	Ronald Brown
Garden	James Sumption
Crops	E. W. Adams, Jr.
Leadership	Iynn Wolfe
Poultry Achievement	- Julius Whitacre

County Council met once this year in November and laid plans to meet twice next year. Our Achievement Day was also planned. It will be on December 10. Ronnie Miller is in charge of the program that will include recognition of members and leaders, talks by club congressites, and Share the Fun.

The county program failed to follow through on three of its goals. They are: Encourage more activity in the honor club; hold tractor maintenance school; and hold county Better Methods Electrical School.

National 4-H Sunday was observed by several community clubs. For example, Gainesboro and Hayfield 4-H Clubs, in their local churches. National 4-H Week was observed by newspaper publicity and a ~~radio~~ radio program in which four outstanding 4-H boys participated. The boys were Ronnie Miller and Billy Ramsey.

E. Farm Youth Exchange Delegate

In 1954 Wilda Jean Adams, local 4-H Club Member, spent 6 months in Finland as a National Farm Youth Exchange Delegate. While Wilda Jean was in Finland, a delegate from Finland spent 3 weeks in our county. The folks in our county have become familiar with the youth exchange program and have become very interested. We were very fortunate in having Kamal Atya, from Egypt, who visited in our county for 4 weeks this past year. He attended several 4-H, church and farm meetings at which time he made a short talk about his country. Kamal spent his 4 weeks with different families in different sections of the county. These folks thoroughly enjoyed his visit.

F. Short Course

The 4-H Short Course is a big time in the life of a club member. It was just so for the Frederick County delegation, a group of fifteen girls and nine boys. We felt that the county won more than its share of honors. A rather unusual situation developed with brother and sister winning state awards. Ann and Iynn Wolfe won the Foods Demonstration and State Leadership Awards. Their Mother, who accompanied the delegation to Blacksburg, received Iynn's award for him. Frederick County won the cooperative contest for the second year. Later in the fall four boys, Buddy Adams, Ronnie Brown, Billy Grim and Julius Whitacre, went with the County Agent to Purdue University for several days. The Livestock Judging Team placed fourth, which isn't as coveted a ~~post~~ position, as higher up the ladder might be. They all felt pretty good about it, especially Ronnie Miller and Billy Grim who placed eighth and ninth

respectively in the individual standings.

Buddy Adams, who won the District Contest in Crops, did not place in the State Contest. Ronnie Miller, who was picked as our County All-Star was a very good selection. When in a group of people, Ronnie demonstrates his leadership by accepting responsibility that is usually given him. By popular consensus of opinion of those boys and girls attending the Short Course, the most enjoyable feature was the Share the Fun Program.

G. Camp

The first week in August was pleasantly and actively spent at Powell's Fort Valley 4-H Club Camp. The Frederick County 4-H aggregation camped with the 4-Her's from Shenandoah and Clarke County. Ted Harris was assigned as camp director to replace Bill Gregory, who had left the Extension Service August 1. The camp got off to a good start with the assistance of Jack Tyree, Associate State 4-H Club Agent, who gave of himself liberally for three days. The agent gave the inexperienced camp director many pointers which greatly helped him and were greatly appreciated.

- There was no Big Chief this year, as in previous years. The camp director felt that the responsibility for this job should be in his hands.

Conservation Camp at Camp Farrar had been run very successfully in this manner; and present at our county camp was a nucleus of outstanding boy and girls who had been at Conservation Camp. They were selected by the Extension personnel to be three of the chiefs and scribes of the various tribes listed below:

<u>Tribe</u>	<u>Chief</u>	<u>Scribe</u>
Mingo	Rhoda Whitacre - Frederick	Larry Click - Shenandoah
Seneca	Larry Larrick - Clarke	Betty Hammock - Frederick
Cherokee	Alice Runyon - Shenandoah	Billy Fowle - Shenandoah
Delaware	Billy Ramsey - Frederick	Madeline Ramsburg - Clarke

These boys and girls proved themselves to be the leaders. This year Frederick County has plans to elect their share of the scribes and chiefs at a County Council Meeting. In this way, it is hoped that the boys and girls will recognize their outstanding members.

There were 194 at camp, 177 of those being 4-H members, 95 boys and 84 girls. There were 11 leaders, 4 men and 7 women and six Extension Personnel, 3 men and 3 women. There was excellent cooperation among all, and it was rumored that the camp had been a success.

H. County Fair

The big event of September was the Frederick County Agricultural Fair. This year the fair was enlarged so that it approached in size the fair of by gone days, that had folded during the years the depression in the thirties. A new location was picked, the Winchester Armory, which furnished much more room for exhibits for not only the youth, but the adults. Outside there were ample grounds for parking and additions of a carnival and machinery exhibit space. Of course, there was a tent to house the livestock, and a livestock show to go along with it. A horse and pony show was instituted for the first time this year. Much of the mechanics of the fair was handled by the youth

of the county. Ronnie Miller was the Superintendent of the entire fair. Much credit for the success of the fair goes to the Ruritan Clubs of the county who directed the operation of the fair for the first time this year.

VI. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES, BANKS AND BUSINESS GROUPS.

The splendid cooperation of all the agricultural agencies, and the financial support given by the banks and business people in general, has been a great help to the Extension Program. There has been no problem in our working relations because everyone is interested in building a sound program for Agriculture in this county. A brief statement covering the cooperation of each group will illustrate how effective this mutual cooperation has been.

A. Agricultural Stabilization Committee

Since the County Agent is a member of the County ASC Committee, he met with this committee at their monthly meetings and participated in setting up the Agricultural Conservation Program for Frederick County. The County Agent served again this year as Chairman of the ASC Electoral Board. He took the responsibility of calling a meeting of the Board at which time nominees were selected for the Community Electoral Board. A meeting was held at the beginning of the sign-up period in the Agricultural Conservation Program at which time the County Agent explained some phases of the program along with the soil conservation technician and the District Forester.

B. Soil Conservation Service

As has been customary for many years, we cooperated with the Soil Technicians and others from the Soil Conservation Service in preparing and working out recommendations for conservation plans for farmers. This proved to be very helpful because in working together we were able to do a much better job in providing farmers with good sound plans for their farm operations. Our greatest contribution was with livestock and farm management in general.

C. Soil Conservation District

The County Agent served as Secretary for the Lord Fairfax Soil Conservation District and attended the Annual Meeting of the State Soil Conservation Districts. The District made many accomplishments during the year, a few of which were: Sponsored three school essay contests, school poster contest, entered the Goodyear Nation-Wide Soil Conservation Awards Program and gave two radio broadcasts and published several news articles alerting the public of the importance of conserving the soil. This was particularly highlighted during Natural Resources Week.

D. Farm Credit Administration

During this year we had more calls on matters of farm credit and, therefore, many farmers were referred to the Farm Credit Administration for their credit needs. The representatives of the local Farm Credit Office have been exceedingly cooperative in the various programs of the Extension Service. They rendered considerable help with the Tri-Breed Sale of Registered Cattle and the Feeder Calf Sales.

E. Farmers Home Administration

Work with the Farmers Home Administration was less this year than usual. This probably is due to the fact that the man who served as supervisor for

many years died last year and the person who took his place has only given limited supervision of their clients in this county. Probably the most important thing that we have both worked together on is the Drought Disaster Committee.

F. Vocational Agriculture

Of all the agencies we have worked with in the county, we have worked more with Vocational Agriculture. This is ~~mostly~~ largely due to the fact that we come in contact with each other because of the 4-H club program. Many of the clubs are located in the schools and we have participated in a number of joint activities, such as the Agricultural County Fair, Livestock Judging Contests, Baby Beef Show and Sale, Corn Growing Contest and others. In the case of the 100 Bushel Corn Club, the Vocational Agriculture teachers have assisted with measuring of the corn. It is because of this good understanding that the programs for each agency have met with success.

G. Banks and Business Groups

The banks and the business people in the community have been very generous in their financial support of projects and programs for both adult and youth work. The amount of money made available for these different projects and activities amounted to approximately \$1500.00 In addition to this financial support, both bank and business representatives served on committees for adult and 4-H club work. In return for this cooperation and assistance, your Extension Workers have assisted in many of the activities carried on by the banks and business groups. The Rural-Urban meeting, sponsored by the Rotary Club, was another activity in which we assisted.

The three local banks sponsored the trip of the County Agent to the State Farm Credit Conference held at Natural Bridge in March.

H. Evaluation and Significance of the Year's Work

In reviewing our past year's work, we think one of the most outstanding events was the recognition of the E. W. Adams, Jr. family which received the Master Farm Family Award, sponsored by the Progressive Farmer Magazine and the Extension Service. The most outstanding accomplishment in the 4-H club program was winning the State 4-H Cooperatives Program Contest which made possible a trip to the National Meeting of Cooperatives held at Purdue University for four outstanding 4-H boys. Igann Wolfe was awarded a trip to the National 4-H Club Congress for his Leadership Achievement.

The Frederick County Fair was greatly enlarged this year and the two County Ruritan Clubs took over the sponsorship of the fair and most of the members, comprising these two clubs, worked endlessly making it a success. More 4-H club members participated in the fair than ever before.

The highlight of our fruit program this year was the Twilight Orchard Meeting held in July at which time over 100 folks attended. It is very hard to single out any one accomplishment too much because we feel there were many, but we mentioned these few because we feel they are most outstanding in our year's work.