

great as in any area included in the Extension program. Large amounts of timber will soon be ready for harvest. Very limited facilities are available at the present time for utilization of any forestry products. Greater emphasis must be placed on proper management of farm woodland areas by land owners.

The agent feels that experience gained and information obtained about the county is now sufficient that great strides may be made in further developing the overall Extension program in Dickenson County.

members. As the need arises information has also been sent to all tobacco growers, all apple growers, certain forestry farmers and others.

D. Bulletins

The authoritative information contained in bulletins has been distributed by the thousand copies by way of county meetings of various types, field days, 4-H Club meetings and through the county office.

VII. The Future

The potential in agriculture is somewhat greater than one would expect after noticing the topography and size of farms prevalent in this area.

There is some place for expansion of the extensive types of farming on the flat ridge tops. Good yields of grain can be made, as well as high yields of top quality forages. This is due in part to the abundant rainfall of the area. The successful production of these crops boosts the potential of some animal industries. With the control of stray dogs, excellent opportunities would be present for sheep production.

Some intensive types of farming are particularly well adapted to this area. This fact has already been established by the production of high quality fruit and vegetables. An increase in this type of agricultural production could be brought about if local collection and/or processing facilities were established. Farmers are naturally reluctant to produce additional products when no market is available.

Furthermore the potential in the area of forestry is perhaps as

D. Dickenson County Chamber of Commerce.

As a member of the agricultural committee of this organization, the agent has cooperated with the chamber and with other members of the committee in trying to identify problems and solutions of an agricultural nature which this organization might be able to assist in.

VI. Publicity

With a limited county staff and added responsibilities of some new programs and assignments, all publicity media must be used to the maximum in order to properly disseminate educational information for which Extension is responsible.

A. Radio

The agent has a regular week day program on the county radio station, and also the radio cooperates to publicize all special events and activities.

B. Newspaper

The agent has a regular column in the weekly county newspaper. This column was started May 1 and has served as a valuable outlet for information each week since.

C. Mass Mailings

Privileges of this type of publicity have been used frequently. Regular monthly information on gardening, landscaping, forestry, poultry and livestock are mailed to certain farmers and 4-H Club

B. Other Agricultural Agencies

1. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

The agent met with the ASCS County Committee at most of their meetings during the year and worked particularly close with this group in presenting information relating to the Feed Grain Program to the people of the county. The agent further conferred at various times with the county office manager as to how the two agencies might work together for the common good of the local farmers.

2. Soil Conservation Service

The agent met several times with the Lonesome Pine Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors and frequently conferred and cooperated with the work unit conservationist concerning projects within the county which involved both agencies.

3. Farmers Home Administration

The agent had several conferences with the local supervisor concerning situations under their consideration.

C. USDA County Emergency Planning Committee

The agent served as chairman of this committee from the time of his assignment to the county until a switch in chairmanship was made. The agent also attended the Roanoke training meeting on the responsibilities of this committee.

b. Senior 4-H Camp

10 members and 2 leaders attended from this county, and the agent served as assistant director.

c. State 4-H Club Short Course

4 4-H Club members and the agent attended short course.

d. 4-H Conservation Camp

2 4-H members and 2 leaders attended.

e. Leadership Camp

1 4-H'er along with the home demonstration agent attended this camp.

f. Regional Resources Development Conference

2 members attended.

g. County 4-H Achievement Day

An Achievement Day was not held during the last year. Awards were mailed to members instead.

V. Related Fields of Emphasis

A. Area Redevelopment Act - Rural Areas Development

At the time information as to the duties and responsibilities of the agent in this area was received, other persons (particularly the Dickenson County Planning Commission) were beginning to do some work relating to this subject. The agent immediately became identified with these people and proceeded to cooperate in every way possible. This cooperative endeavor has resulted in the publishing of an Overall Economic Development Plan for Dickenson County.

3. Automotive Care and Safety

Another Senior 4-H Club has chosen to work in the Automotive Care and Safety project with which it is making good progress.

C. Contests and Awards

1. County Contests

A county contest was held for the Share-the-Fun program which was a great success. 4-H members ~~eligibility~~ for competition in district contests were limited to the extent that other county contests were not held.

2. District Contests

Four Senior 4-H members competed in the District contests in (a) Public Speaking, (b) Livestock Conservation Demonstration, (c) Home Grounds Beautification Demonstration, and (d) Electric Demonstration. The participants in the Livestock Conservation Demonstration and Home Grounds Beautification Demonstration were winners and received scholarships to attend 4-H State Short Course.

3. State Contests

The 4-H boy from this county representing the District in the State Livestock/^{Conservation}Demonstration contest was a red award winner, and the boy from this county representing the district in the State Home Grounds Beautification demonstration contest was a white award winner.

4. Activities and Events

a. Junior 4-H Club Camp

37 4-H Club members, 3 leaders, and the agent attended Junior camp from this county.

IV. County Extension Program - Youth

A. Organization

1. County Council

The 4-H County Council held one meeting at which officers were elected and several projects, such as a 4-H Yearbook and Achievement Day, and a Christmas float, were decided on and planned. Response to the meeting was very satisfactory by the members.

2. Adult Leaders

There are 27 adult leaders in the county working primarily as organization leaders. These are not organized as a group, but work in their individual clubs.

3. All-Stars

One new All Star was taken into the Virginia Chapter this year from the county, making a total of 23 in the county.

B. Project Work

Accomplishments in this area are more difficult to report since the agent began working at the end of one project year and has now started working on the next project year. Some results of project work can be told better by participation in contests as described below.

1. Forestry

4-H members set 7300 tree seedlings in the spring of 1961.

2. Home Grounds Beautification

One Senior club has chosen the project in landscaping which it is now carrying out on the school grounds of Ervinton High School.

7. Rural Sociology

With the help of Dr. Fessler and local representatives of certain agricultural and social agencies, the agent conducted a town and country institute which was fairly well attended and exceptionally well accepted.

8. Soil Conservation

a. Farm Pond School

The agent cooperated with the local work unit conservationist and the state soil conservation service biologist in conducting a farm pond management school. Three farms were visited in the county, each showing the results of the different management practices, which in turn had made them very different in their productive capacities with regard to fish. As a result of this school certain individuals have made improvements in their farm ponds.

b. Lonesome Pine SCD Board of Supervisors

The agent met with this group several times during the year, acting as secretary at one meeting, and cooperating with their efforts in all possible ways.

This group is now considering submitting an application on a small watershed development project within Bickenson County.

of publicity, such as radio programs, news articles, personal contacts, to help livestock owners to know recommended parasite control measures, proper rationing of feeds and minerals, and good management practices in general.

b. Marketing

There is no livestock market within the county, nor is the county involved in a wool pool. The agent strived to keep market reports concerning all livestock commodities in front of the public at all times in which they were applicable.

c. Veterinarian Service

Many citizens of the county still regard the county agent as the county veterinarian. By presenting information more exactly defining the correct role of extension agents, this understanding has been more clearly defined to some of the people. It is still necessary for the agent to do some of this type of work which, in some cases, is a door opener with regard to working with the livestock owners.

6. Poultry

There are only two poultry men operating on a commercial basis in the county. One is a well established producer while the other has grown into the commercial class only this year. The agent has been able to be of some help to the new producer in becoming established.

facilities this year. Another grower has purchased property on a major highway in an adjoining county on which he plans to establish a central fruit market.

b. Tomato Production for Commercial Canning

A new cannery was established in adjoining Wise County this year which processes tomatoes and apples. Various methods of publicity was used to bring this new marketing outlet to the attention of the farmers in the county. However, no farmers found that the potential for profit from a tomato operation was great enough to merit their growing a commercial crop. Trucking distance for the fruit was one of the major considerations of most farmers.

c. Landscaping

Both Extension Landscape Specialists visited the county and offered much assistance to the new Breaks elementary school, the Ervinton High School 4-H Club, Phipps Cemetery and Clintwood Baptist Church, in making the grounds surrounding these public places more beautiful and enjoyable.

5. Livestock

a. Publicity

Because of limited acreages of farm land suitable to extensive agricultural, livestock numbers are quite small in this county. There are approximately 1000 head/each of beef and dairy cattle, 500 hogs and 375 sheep. The agent used all methods

c. Woodland Management Demonstration Areas

One demonstration area had been set up previous to this year. A new demonstration was set up in a different section of the county this year and, in connection with the demonstration, a Forestry Field Day was held which was attended by 64 people. The cooperative agencies, that is; The Extension Service, The Virginia Division of Forestry, The Soil Conservation Service, The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and The Tennessee Valley Authority cooperated in conducting the field day and presenting information to the attenders concerning proper and recommended forestry management practices.

d. 4-H Forestry

4-H members were not asked for their tree seedling orders until after March 1 of this year, but even by starting this late 7300 seedlings were set by 4-H'ers. Also, all 4-H Clubs of the in-school type are enrolled in the Forestry Appreciation project for the coming year

4. Horticulture

a. Fruit Growers

Several of the larger apple growers in the county are active participants in the activities of the Area Fruit Growers Association which meets monthly in adjoining Wise County.

One apple grower added additional storage alongside his

held such a demonstration in which some six or eight farmers took part. Most of these farmers proceeded to prime their own crops. They further kept the primed tobacco separate throughout the marketing period, which will be valuable information as soon as all records for the year's crop are complete.

e. Tobacco Sorting and Grading Demonstrations

Two such demonstrations were held with a government grader assisting the agent. One of these demonstrations was particularly well attended and interest was good from most all growers.

3. Forestry

a. Forestry School

The agent attended the forestry school at Blackstone at which he received much valuable information as to how a county extension forestry program should be conducted. Much of this information has already been used in laying the foundation for the Extension Forestry Program in this county.

b. Forestry Committee

The forestry committee now includes only three men and was selected at the end of this reporting year. It is anticipated and planned that additional members will be selected until the committee has approximately six members.

2. Agronomy

a. Feed Grain Program

The agent assisted all other agricultural workers in the county, specifically the A. S. C. County Committee, in holding area committee meetings within the county and releasing information through the press relative to the Feed Grain Program and its adaptation to farmers of this county.

b. Alfalfa Weevil Control Demonstration

An alfalfa weevil control demonstration plot was set up on the farm of an interested farmer in one of the better farming areas of the county. Alfalfa growers in this county have not yet experienced alfalfa weevil infestations enough to merit control measures.

This demonstration will no doubt be very effective within the next year or two, not only in showing proper control measures, but also in emphasizing the leadership role of Extension in Agriculture.

c. Soils

The soils specialist spent a day with the agent in reviewing predominant soils of the county, which has enabled the agent to make more authentic recommendations concerning the use of soil than he would otherwise have been able to do.

d. Tobacco Priming Demonstration

This seemed to be the year in which demonstrating the advisability of priming Burley Tobacco was proper. The agent

2. Special Interest Committees

Only two groups can be called special interest committees at this time. Potentially there are others and these will be organized in the near future.

a. Forestry

This committee is new, having been selected just prior to the writing of this report. The committee now has three members and others will be added when advisable. All present members are very interested and capable men and can offer a real service to the people of the county.

b. Horticulture

A committee on horticulture as such does not exist. However, several apple growers within the county are active participants in the area fruit growers association of adjoining Wise County.

B. Subject Matter Areas

1. Agricultural Economics

The agent has cooperated with the local county Chamber of Commerce in exploring possibilities and laying groundwork for a county wide farmers organization. The agent also made arrangements for the Agricultural Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to make a trip to Lee County and study the strawberry marketing cooperative established in that county.

Analyzing the above data and comparing it with the other 30 counties of the Mountain Region which the survey covered, we find that Dickenson ranks third in the greatest volume of yellow poplar, basswood, and cucumber. It ranks seventh in the volume of oaks and other hard hardwoods.

II. Agent's Situation

The agent began his services in this county March 1, 1961. Since that time a great deal of effort has been made to learn about the county, its resources, situation, and the interests of its people. Some conclusions were readily and easily drawn, whereas others have required much more investigation and study. Some new projects have already been added to the County Extension Program, and others are now in the infant stages. It is felt that within the next few months even more projects which will be very beneficial to the citizens of the county can be initiated.

III. County Extension Program - Adult

A. Organization

1. Extension Service Board

The Extension Service Board of the County is made up primarily of professional agricultural workers, ^{and} farm supply merchants, with some representation by leading farmers. The board is not staffed according to the recommended Virginia plan because of the lack of special interest committees and commodity groups. The board, as such, met once during the past year to assist the agent in the 1961 Plan of Work. Progress is being made in re-staffing and re-organizing the Board according to the Virginia plan.

of \$50 to \$2,499 but are considered commercial farms.

Other income of the farm family exceeded the value of farm products on 423 farms. Three hundred ninety-four operators had off farm employment 100 days or more.

A breakdown of farms by type indicates the greatest number (651) as miscellaneous and unclassified farms. Livestock farms (other than dairy and poultry) number 30; Tobacco (Burley) farms, 25; Fruit, 20; General 30.

Agricultural employment consists of the families of operators almost entirely. Only one farm reports hiring labor for as much as 150 days per year.

Dickenson County has the highest percent of land area in forests of any county in the state. According to the Forest Survey of 19⁵⁷, this county contains 184,753 acres of commercial forest land, and 1,800 acres of non-commercial forest area (land incapable of yielding usable wood products because of adverse site conditions or physically inaccessible). From this data we find that 86.6% of the land area is in forests.

The Forest Survey of 1940 reported 160,300 acres of commercial forest land and no non-commercial. The total increase of forest land over the 17-year period is 26,853 acres. It is recognized that this trend is good and will likely continue.

The 1957 Forest Survey shows the net volume of sawtimber by species group in millions of board feet as follows: softwoods, 7.7; yellow poplar, basswood and cucumber, 141.9; oaks and other hard hardwoods, 258.0. Softwoods include white pine, hemlock and red cedar.

I. County Situation

Dickenson is one of the Virginia coalfield counties. It is bounded on the east by Buchanan County, on the south by Russell, on the west by Wise, and on the north by Pike County, Kentucky. The county is very mountainous, being in the Cumberland Range, with fairly steep hillsides and narrow valleys. Such topography is the cause for small farms and the concentration of most farms on the flat ridge tops. Coal is the major source of income in the county, and all agricultural interests are secondary.

The county is now experiencing a tremendous amount of unemployment and under-employment, as well as a low media income. In April 1961, 25% of the population of the county was receiving surplus food commodities distributed by the County Welfare Department. Out migration for the past decade amounted to a population loss of four thousand.

The situation as related to agriculture can be well shown by information taken from the 19~~49~~⁵⁴ Census of Agriculture. The census shows Dickenson County as having 783 farms. This is 899 less than was reported in 1954 with only 270 of the loss due to the change in census definition of a farm.

Of the 214,400 acres total land area in the county, 17.9% or 38,454 acres is in farms. The average size farm is 49.1 acres.

One hundred forty farms are classed as commercial farms, however, only five of these have farm sales of \$2,500 to \$4,999. Six hundred forty-six of the 783 farms are classified as part time farms with sales of farm products of \$50 to \$2,499. The remaining 135 farms also have sales

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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Name

Agent

COUNTY

Title

Assistant Agent

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1961

DICKENSON

County