

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1960

Greenville

County

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TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Greensville County is uniquely located. U. S. Highway 58 and 301 intersect at the county seat; the Atlantic Coast Line and the Atlantic and Danville railroads do likewise, furnishing excellent travel north, south, east and west. The county is bordered on the south by North Carolina and is touched by four other Virginia counties.

One section of the county has soils that are classed as being in the piedmont area and another section has soils classed as being in the tidewater area. The land varies in contour, ranging from rolling to moderately rolling and then to low, flat, bottom land.

Peanuts, cotton, tobacco, soybeans and cucumbers constitute the main cash crops. Corn is being sold by an increasing number of farmers each year and is fast coming into its own as a big money crop. More hogs are reared and sold than any other livestock. Swine production is fast becoming one of the big money production enterprises of the county. Beef cattle for market continues to be produced on a limited scale. Approximately two thirds of the county is in forests, owned mostly by farmers in the county, and helping to support several industries in producing lumber and its products.

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

County Advisory Board	NFA Farmers
Community Farm Clubs	Community Improvement Club

Neighborhood Leaders	Soil Conservation
4-H County Council	County Committee of PMA
4-H Clubs	FHA and Farm Credit Administration
Home Demonstration	

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

Many activities of a county-wide and state nature are sponsored by the County Advisory Board with various committees being appointed to help carry out the work. This Board reviews the past year's work and approves each current year's program.

Numbered among this year's activities of the Board was the sponsoring of the drives to get a wider adoption of recommended practices in the production of corn, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, tobacco, and an increase in the number of ladino clover pastures for grazing hogs. As usual, the Board selected and financed delegates to the State Advisory Board Meeting, it also represented and urged attendance at Virginia State College's Farm and Home Week Conference. Conducted again, was the Board's Health Project. This involves the free use of the Board's two wheel chairs by invalid persons.

MAJOR PROJECTS

CORN

A. Situation

Corn yields per acre for the county is an estimated 45 bushels. Too large a number of farmers balk

at using recommended quantities of fertilizer and other recommended practices are not satisfactorily adopted. The majority do not make enough corn which will permit of more economical feeding of market hogs and provide a surplus for sale.

B. Goals

To increase the per acre yield of corn for the county by using the 100 bushels corn club contest as a stimulus.

To teach more economical corn production.

C. Methods

The County Advisory Board sponsored the corn contest. The crop committee signed fifteen (15) entrants to the Contest by March. Three (3) adult demonstrations were conducted. Four thousand persons were contacted through farm visits made by agent and leaders, by office and telephone calls, meetings, by distributed circular letters, bulletins and radio. Included in the number of persons contacted were 4-H boys who cultivated most of the corn grown in the county. Many on the field instructions were given at the time of cultivation.

D. Results

Boys Help Parents Increase Corn Yields

More than 300 boys who cultivated their parents' corn crop again this year made predominant use of the pea weeder, spike tooth harrow, rotary hoe and cultivator, avoiding damage to the corn roots and

thus materially contributing to the estimated number of individuals who were assisted directly to adopt recommended cultural practices.

Demonstrators Charles Gilliam, Powell Community, Lester Roberts, Royal Community and Peter Davis, Mars Hill Community, got corn yields as follows: Gilliam 85 bushels per acre of 10 acres; Roberts 60 bushels per acre on 15 acres; and Davis 50 bushels per acre on 20 acres. These men did not use fertilizer in recommended amounts, but followed all other recommendations.

The fifteen who were signed to try for 100 bushels per acre did not use the recommended per acre quantity of fertilizer, claiming shortage of money. They did, however, increase their per acre yield to 55 bushels.

An estimated 525 different farmers and others followed one or more of the following recommended practices in the production of corn; use of hybrids, having a soil test made, rotating the crop and planting corn to a thicker stand. The most encouraging practice adopted was that of shallow cultivation. Thus, practices leading to more economical production of corn were widely adopted.

PASTURE AND WINTER COVER CROPS AS A FORAGE

A. Situation

A large number of farmers in the county have not improved pastures. Many have no pastures.

Many of the improved pastures are too small to adequately care for the livestock on the farm and permit the economical rearing of livestock for market.

Too large a number of farmers do not fully appreciate the value of winter cover crops as a forage.

B. Goals

To plan an effective county-wide pasture campaign and get each farm to provide adequate pasture for the livestock on the farm now.

To urge each farm to increase its acreage of improved pasture and cover crops and the number of head of livestock on the farm as rapidly as economic conditions and good farm practices will justify.

C. Methods

Four adult result demonstrations combining improved pasture and cover crops involving 150 acres were conducted. A pasture committee of 25 farmers and 50 local leaders helped spread information. Fifteen of this group attended one field meeting in the county. Thirty-nine hundred and eighty-nine (3989) individual contacts were made by three county meetings held, by farm visits made by agent and leaders, office and telephone calls received, by 75 bulletins distributed and 500 circulars mailed..... all setting forth approved practices to be followed in establishing and maintaining better pastures and

grazing. One radio talk was given on spring seeding and two radio talks were made of fall seeding. There were also other radio talks made during which points on pasture management were given. Organizations cooperating were community farm clubs, SCS Service, PMA and NFA.

D. Results

The four adult result demonstrators and the acres they seeded are as follows: Percell Gilliam, Route 1, Box 148, Emporia, Virginia, of Powell Community - 100 acres of small grain and ten acres of ladino clover; Robert Davis, Route 1, Box 118, Emporia, Virginia, of Mars Hill Community - 40 acres small grain and 4 acres of ladino clover; John Garrett, Route 3, Box 85, Emporia, Virginia of Pleasant Shade Community - 20 acres small grain and 5 acres ladino clover.

An estimated total of 575 farmers and other individuals were assisted directly or indirectly to adopt recommended practices in establishing new pastures and in improving old ones and in seeding summer and winter cover crops for grazing.

Land seeded included new fields, corn fields, cotton middles, and harvested peanut fields. For permanent pastures, combinations of orchard grass, ladino and red clover predominated; for grazing and

cover crops, rye, barley, and crimson clover were chosen. One farmer chose to plant 30 acres of rye grass. The combined total acres seeded for grazing is estimated to have been over 4000.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

A. Situation

Last year five farm families were worked with in the farm and home development program.

B. Goal

To consolidate work with these families converted into the new program, seeking to get adoption of recommended practices.

Continue work and contact other families with the ultimate goal being to get them enrolled in the new program.

C. Methods

Made 83 visits to farms, received office and telephone calls and mailed to each seasonal recommended farm practices. Assisted each family with reviewing and analyzing farm records. Enlisted help of forestry specialist. Enrolled 4-H members from three of the homes with projects that directly supported the families farm and home plan. Two field meetings were held.

D. Results

Group Activities

The five members of the Farm and Home Development Program got the following results:

With crops - the peanut yield averaged 15 bags per acre, corn 60 bushels, soybeans 30 bushels and cotton 3/4 bale and tobacco 1600 pounds per acre. Three improved 15 acres of ladino clover pasture and ladino-orchard grass pastures by using recommended lime and fertilizer. All five planted winter cover crops and rotated their crops, using recommended fertilizers and cultural practices. With livestock - the group marketed 1000 hogs and 28 head of beef cattle.

MINOR PROJECTS

PEANUTS

Results:

The three adult result demonstrators set up to help teach economical production of this crop demonstrated on a total of 20 acres. They set out to follow all the recommendations of our nine members agronomy committee, however, the most widely adopted practice was the closer spacing of peanuts in the row, which seems to have won unanimous approval. The average yield per acre of the demonstrators was 17 bags. An estimated 500 farmers were assisted in some phase of production...main ones being: Use of right kind of seed for their particular soils, testing their soils, seed treatment, rotation, commodity outlook, and spacing of seed and use of recommended fertilizer and weed control. The over-all yield per acre was estimated to be 18 bags per acre. An estimated

twenty-five farmers fertilized for peanuts the crop preceding peanuts instead of directly fertilizing the peanuts. One hundred (100) peanut growers plowed down fertilizer for their peanuts. Plowing under deep all surface trash and refuse before planting and proper cultivation to prevent stem rot was another widely adopted practice.

COTTON

Results:

The estimated average yield of cotton per acre was 450 pounds lint. The three farmers who demonstrated on a total of 30 acres averaged 500 pounds of lint per acre. The total number of farmers helped in all phases of production of this crop was 588. Practices followed were: boll weevil and disease control, use of recommended variety, and strain of seed, fertilizer and commodity outlook information, closer spacing and the recommendations for getting cotton off to a quick start and luxuriant growth. The most wisely adopted recommended practice was the use of more potash by all cotton growers at chopping time. Unfavorable weather conditions cut the yield of this crop.

TOBACCO

Results:

TOBACCO SORTING DEMONSTRATION HELD

Friday, September 16, at the farm of Clarence Fleming, Route 2, Box 218-D, Emporia, Virginia, 25 tobacco

growers proclaimed this demonstration to be the best ever attended.

The demonstration brought out the fact that most growers were not getting the most money for their tobacco.

Reason 1. Growers were not properly sorting their tobacco because they did not have knowledge of what use is made of different leaves.

Reason 2. Growers were not able to interpret or understand the Daily Tobacco Mark Report (sheet)...U. S. Grades Auction average price and advance price.

Reason 3. On the auction floor growers would not stay with their tobacco until it was sold.

These points were skillfully shown and discussed by Roy R. Gordon, U. S. D. A. Tobacco Marketing Specialist.

The crowning point of the demonstration came when two farm men and a farm woman summarized the meeting and told of the new things they had learned.

TOBACCO SORTING AND GRADING DEMONSTRATION EVALUATED

Seems as if the best way to evaluate a tobacco grading and sorting demonstration is to question those in attendance after their tobacco is sold. Given below are the reactions of a few of the 25 who attended the September demonstration:

Roosevelt Tyler, Route 1, Box 78, Jarratt, Virginia,
"By following the instructions I got at the demonstration, I got 10¢ more per pound than I did on the same kind of tobacco I had sold before I attended the demonstration.

You can call a meeting like that anytime and I will be there".

Theopolis Gilliam, Route 2, Box 218-B...."This is the third meeting I've attended, and I learn more each year. I now know what makes the different grades of tobacco. I get a better price for my tobacco, too".

Seventy year old Jim Rodgers, Route 3, Box 93-A...
"When I carried my tobacco to market, the auctioneer said that this is a pile of good ripe tobacco which was never said about my tobacco before. A neighbor of mine wanted to know how I got a better price for my tobacco than he did for his. He said his tobacco was prettier than mine. I said yes, but my tobacco was riper than yours. I learned at our tobacco demonstration that ripe tobacco is what the market wants".

All of the 25 growers present at the demonstration given in Royal Community said that they had violated some or all of the good points told and demonstrated to them by Dr. Roy M. Gordon, Tobacco Grading Specialist, U.S.D.A., A & T College, Greensboro, North Caroline.

Four hundred tobacco growers were assisted in getting better varieties of tobacco, in using recommended fertilizers, having soil tested, controlling insects and diseases in addition to marketing help given. The three demonstrators stressed the making of quality tobacco this year.

VEGETABLES:

Results:

NUMBER OF FALL-WINTER GARDENS INCREASE

As a result of special emphasis being placed upon the production of a fall-winter garden, it is estimated that the number of such gardens increased by one third. Groups aiding in this drive were 72 family members of the Antioch-Peebles-Dahlia Community Improvement Club, three result demonstrators, 172 four-H (4-H) club members who carried garden as their projects and 105 leaders.

An estimated 4200 farm, town, and suburban individuals were assisted with their gardens. Help given consisted mostly of giving timely information and advice on securing the proper varieties to plant, controlling insects and diseases, using fertilizers and storing, and advising of the proper planting dates.

THE HOUSE AND SURROUNDINGS, FRUITS, FLOWERS, ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS

Results:

Seventy-five (75) persons were aided in securing better stock in planting fruit and nut trees; 425 were supplied information on fertilizing fruit trees; 375 were helped in getting and using the proper insecticides and fungicides for spraying fruit and shade trees.

Others assisted were 15 in getting shrubs and making plantings; 4 in grading and planting lawn grass

seed; 50 in identifying and controlling insects and diseases on ornamental shrubs and 20 in using fertilizer; 1 in planning electrical systems; 2 in building a new house; 3 in repairing the house.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

Results:

BEEF CATTLE....Fifty farmers were assisted with the selection and breeding of their stock and 75 were helped with feed problems. Helping in this endeavor were demonstrators Percell Gilliam of Powell Community and James Tucker of Peebles Community with a combined total of 50 heads. These men lead the way in seeding small grain for winter grazing and also in the making of spring seedings of permanent pastures. There was an increase of 30 farmers who carry one or more head of beef cattle for market or home use. Most of the 50 farmers who were assisted in marketing were those who bred their dairy cows to beef bulls, either marketing or slaughtering for home use, the resulting offspring.

SWINE

Results:

An estimated total of 800 farmers and other individuals were assisted directly or indirectly in adopting some recommended practices in the production and management of their hogs. Seven hundred made an effort to control diseases and internal and external parasites of their hogs. Six hundred were assisted in the production

of cheap feed. Six hundred were assisted or given information on selection and breeding and the adoption of efficient work methods. Market information and the swine outlook given farmers influenced a large number. The four result demonstrators who were to show how to rear hogs on the cheapest source of feed followed this procedure: Two hundred and fifty animals were spring grazed on crimsonclover and fall seeded small grains. This was followed by grazing on improved ladino clover pastures. Green soybeans, lespedeza and corn also were resorted to which was later supplemented by hogging down on fields of intergrown early maturing soybeans and corn. Marketing of these animals was completed by September. Overall, there was a sizeable increase in the number of hogs marketed this year compared to the number sold in previous years.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AND FORESTRY

Results:

Five hundred were helped in some or all the following phases of soil and water conservation and management as follows: 30 in proper land use; 1 in contour stripping and cropping; 3 in terracing; 400 in the use of lime and gypsum; 500 in crop rotation, and in the production of soil improvement crops; and 3 in land clearing.

In forestry, farmers were assisted as follows: 10 in planting pine seedlings; 10 in thinning; 20 in harvesting; 2 in estimating and appraising; 30 in

marketing and 800 in fire prevention. "Tree Farmer" James Tucker of Peebles Community who demonstrates on 250 acres of woodland continues to show others how to make an annual income from his trees by making annual harvests.

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE FARM BUSINESS

Results:

The estimated number of farmers and other individuals assisted in adopting recommended practices in planning and management of the farm business is 600. Assisted were: 600 in information on the agricultural outlook; 40 in keeping and analyzing farm records; 30 in developing an over-all farm plan; 40 in making needed adjustments on the farm; 75 in developing supplemental sources of income; 30 in obtaining farm credit; 2 in selecting a farm for rental and for purchase; 2 in legal aspects of farm business; and 300 in income tax accounting, social security, and related problems.

FARM BUILDINGS AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

Results:

Farmers, homemakers and other individuals helped in adopting recommended practices under this head number 340. Help was given to 6 in planning and constructing farm buildings. Thirty were advised on remodeling and repairs. Twenty-four were aided in developing labor-saving devices and equipment. A total of 250 were

were advised in the use, care, and repair of farm mechanical equipment.

FOUR-H CLUBS

A. Situation

Boys in 4-H club week were supervised by the farm agent; girls were supervised by the home agent. Whenever the need arose, both farm and home agent worked with either group or together, holding joint meetings. More frequently, the farm and home agent alternated in attending club meetings, planning and conferring together in weekly conferences.

Eligible boys and girls belong to the same club and select the project they desire. In special projects like tractor maintenance, the boys form a tractor club and meet only occasionally with their community clubs.

Meetings were held in school rooms, agents' office, school and commercial shops and in homes.

B. Goal

To strengthen the 4-H club organization and work in the county through a more effective use of leaders and through better planning.

C. Methods

Variety of Activities Strengthen 4-H Club Organization and Work

More effective use of leaders and committees and better planning definitely played a part in strengthening our 4-H club organization and work, but high on the list

must come the many activities that served to interest and motivate leaders and members. A few are numbered and described:

1. "Traveling Lady" - who went to every member and leader, who in turn solicited funds; these funds then being used to finance an out of county tour, also to furnish cash awards for Achievement Day exhibits with completed record books, and to help establish a 4-H scholarship fund.
2. The publishing of NEWS AND VIEWS, a county 4-H news leaflet, edited three times per year by members and leaders, designed to publicize 4-H information and doings.
3. The Dime Scholarship Drive designed to raise money for the 4-H Scholarship Fund and to increase enthusiasm for 4-H activities.
4. County-wide Clean-Up Campaign was made mandatory for all 4-H members by County Council. Conducted in the spring, members reported their accomplishments at club meetings.

The number of boys enrolled was 579 carrying 721 projects. Eighteen junior leader training meetings were held with an attendance of 327. The agent held and participated in 58 other 4-H meetings attended by 5411. This number includes four County Council Meetings held to discuss, plan and check county-wide activities, the holding of Annual Achievement Day, and an out-of-town tour. The

services of trained personnel were secured to instruct boys in the tractor maintenance and electrical courses. The instructions given at meetings were reinforced by farm visits by agent and leaders, by office and phone calls, mailed bulletins, circulars and radio talks, and method demonstrations. Project instructions on tractor maintenance, safety and gardens were reinforced by the showing of three motion pictures.

D. Results:

DIME 4-H SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

Four hundred 4-H members, leaders and sponsors contributed to this Drive. This was a first time effort and the enthusiasm for the activity was commendable and the results were considered good. Money resulting from the activity of the Traveling Lady and the Out-of-town Tour enhanced the scholarship fund.

CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

In reporting their accomplishments in the county-wide clean-up campaign, many members said that because of their taking part in the annual clean-up campaign, they are forming the habit of keeping their homes and surroundings cleaned up all the year round. It is estimated that 90% of the members participated. Clean-up work was made more effective by work done by the 188 boys enrolled in the safety project, with 176 completing.

FOUR-H ENROLLMENT AND COMPLETION

The number of boys completing their projects was 492, who completed 589 projects. Projects completed

consisted of corn, peanuts, cotton, tobacco, gardens, potatoes, forestry, swine, farm and/^{home}electric, poultry, tractor maintenance, health, and farm and home safety. Involved in the completed projects were 198 acres, 1550 birds, 99 animals, and 11 tractors. Four boys enrolled in forestry planted 15 acres in pine seedlings, killing 5 acres of undersirable trees in the process of planting, and two boys released 10 acres.

Annual Hog Show and Sale

Two 4-H members from Greensville County participated in this annual event held at the Southside Fair at Petersburg, Virginia, October 3-8. Greensville 4-H'ers had on exhibit 8 hogs. Two of the eight hogs won prizes. Frank Harris was the winner. This boy also had the grand champion or the best hog in the show.

Annual County Achievement Day

Saturday, October 22, three hundred 4-H members and others observed our annual 4-H Achievement Day with variety of activities.

A panel discussion by the 15 delegates who attended the State Short Course and Wildlife Conference clearly revealed that the boys and girls got a lot of helpful information from the two State meetings. Two motion pictures furnished valuable information and satisfying enjoyment to the group. Improved four-H exhibits were accompanied by many completed record books. Funds raised by the Traveling Lady made it possible to give cash prizes

or awards for exhibits accompanied by the members' completed record books and add cash to the Scholarship Fund.

Four-H'ers Make Tour

The annual out-of-town tour was made by 54 4-H'ers and leaders to Sunset Lake, Portsmouth, Virginia on August 9. All who made the trip, willingly paid excell fare for the benefit of the 4-H Scholarship Fund. This was done on the suggestion of the group.

4-H Scholarships

The annual effort is to give a 4-H Scholarship of \$75.00 each to a girl and boy. None qualified for 1960.

The requirements are: must be persons who will further their education by attending college or a similar educational institution; must maintain an average grade of C or a passing grade; must have been an active 4-H member each of the 5 years while in high school; should be neat in all activities; should be able to get along with other people; be reliable, trustworthy, honest and dependable.

OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL 4-H CLUB WEEK

Greensville County 4-H'ers joined others throughout the nation in the observance of National 4-H Club Week.

Special activities carrying out the theme: "Learn, Live and Serve Through 4-H" took place from March 5-28 and were designated as:

1. The "Give A Dime" for 4-H Scholarship Campaign (Through the individual clubs each member was asked to contribute a dime toward the 4-H Scholarship Fund).
2. Special 4-H club programs by each of the 13 clubs (the objectives, accomplishments, and results of 4-H clubs in the nation, the state and county).
3. Posters publicizing 4-H club work and its objectives were displayed in schools and store windows.
4. The annual clean-up campaign (every member was to clean up around home, farm, school and church).
5. One 4-H County Council Meeting (4-H officers received training in their specific duties Saturday, March 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the cafeteria of Wyatt High School).

In addition to the above activities, three 4-H electrical classes were started at the following places: Brink and Moton Elementary and Wyatt High Schools. A total of 151 members were enrolled. The classes are conducted through the services of the Rural Electric Cooperative by Mrs. Mary Scott, Home Economist and Mr. E. T. Blackwell, Agricultural Engineer, both from the Mecklenburg Electric Coop.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT WORK

(Farm Only)

The Community Improvement Program for Greenville County was enlarged by combining Antioch and Peebles Communities with the original one, Dahlia.

Now the community has 71 families of which 44 are farm owners, 11 tenants, 10 renters and 6 home owners.

There are 4014 farm acres of which 1306 acres are cropland, 160 acres are in pastures and 1226 in forest.

Total number of boys and girls under 18 years of age at home - 213.

Club and individual activities were chosen. The community was divided into neighborhoods with elected neighborhood leaders. Nine club meetings have been held as well as several committee meetings. Individual farm visits have been made and numerous circulars mailed.

All families have gotten individual painted mail boxes, whereas before, 1/3 shared mail boxes with other families. The uniformity is very appealing to the eye. This project was done under the supervision of the neighborhood leaders. An application has been filed for a specialist to landscape the community church grounds. Extension recommendations were followed by many in the production of crops, livestock and gardens.

Farm Development

Forty-four families seeded 546 acres to winter cover crops, 10 families improved 59½ acres of forest land by selective cutting or planting pines, 12 families used 30 tons of lime, 47 families used 97 tons of fertilizer on crops, small grain, pasture, 44 families planted recommended varieties of seeds on 300 acres, 3 families have soil and water conservation plans and have done

work on these plans involving 150 acres, 5 farmers fenced in 50 acres, 1 family installed electricity and 1 family installed running water, 20 families bought major pieces of farm machinery, 19 families protected their machinery from weather by housing.