

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1958

King and Queen County

County

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I. General County Situation

King and Queen is a rural county located on the northeast bank of the Mattaponi River. The county is 66 miles long with an average width of only 8 miles.

The total population of the county in 1950 was 6,299 of which 46% is white. During the past 20 years there has been a decrease in population of 1319.

The 1954 census indicates 764 farms, 424 of which are listed as being operated or owned by white farmers. The county agent's mailing list numbers about 240 active farmers. The total land area of the county is 203,520 acres 43% of which is in farms. In 1954, 702 farms reported harvesting a total of 24,235 acres.

About 77.2% of the total land area is in forest or 156,000 acres. There are many small sawmills and pulpwood cutting units. A large paper mill at West Point offers employment and purchases a considerable amount of pulpwood from King and Queen County landowners. The only industry in the county in addition to sawmills is a vegetable cannery located at Walkerton. This cannery operated in 1958, canning lima beans raised on leased acres and blackeye peas raised on contract. The stockholders plan to close out their farming operations and contract for canning crops with local farmers.

Almost 1000 acres of farm land was placed in the soil bank for 5 to 10 years and possibly as much more will go in next year if the plan is offered again. The agent recognizes that the return to the individual for the next few years may be greater with government help than by renting land to farmers. The county as a whole would be a major loser due to diminished commerce. This would encourage more people to move out, making the tax burden, even for second class services, hard to bear. The solution is the development of the whole county to support more people. It is to this end that the plans and efforts of the agent are dedicated.

II. County Organization

Following is a list of the county organizations with which the county agent has cooperated in furthering the Extension Programs:

County Board of Agriculture
Farm and Home Advisory Committee
Tidewater Guernsey Breeders Association
Tidewater Dairy Herd Improvement Association
Tidewater Milk Producers Association
Tidewater Soil Conservation District
Mattaponi Breeders, Inc.
King and Queen ASC County Committee
King and Queen Farm Bureau
Marrriott Young Farmers Club
King and Queen Forestry Club
Norfolk Area Milk Producers Association

III. Major Projects

Farm and Home Development

A. Situation

1. The Extension Staff is entering its fourth year of Farm and Home Development work.
2. This phase of the Extension program has been accepted by the people.
3. Approximately 25 families were worked with during 1957.
4. There are still approximately 20 families on the selected list that have not been worked with.

B. Goals

1. Inform the county population of this phase of the Extension program.
2. Work intensively with 25 families during 1958.
3. Establish efficient method of providing technical data and specialist aid to any family in the county.
4. Increase the use of farm record books.

C. Methods and Results

1. The agents continued to use the advice and counsel of the committee made up of representatives of county organizations and others. Programs benefitting hog and vegetable growers were initiated.
2. The County Extension Staff discussed the work with various Farm and Home families often and thoroughly. All agents were kept informed of the progress and problems of each family.
3. Men agents held field day to visit farrowing house and vegetable crops. The State Department of Agriculture gave assistance with marketing.
4. Farm Record books were distributed and families were instructed in their use.
5. Farmers were given assistance in planning rotations, fertilizer programs, farm buildings, selecting, buying and selling livestock, feeding, selling farm products, disease and parasite control.

III. Major Projects

Dairying

A. Situation

1. The sale of whole milk has doubled during the past 5 years.
2. Dairy cow population has increased about 200 during the same period. (Six grade A dairy farms in county)
3. The average production sold per cow is less than one gallon per day. (county average)
4. Approximately 15 farmers in King and Queen County are raising replacement heifers.

B. Goals

1. Improve herd production average.
2. Increase effectiveness of breeding program.
3. Continue effective Bangs Control Program.

4. Conduct pasture tour to emphasize 12 month feed program.
5. Encourage 2 dairymen to initiate system of production record keeping.

C. Methods and Results

1. King and Queen dairymen met three times with dairymen from Gloucester, Mathews and Middlesex on breeding, organization and marketing problems. Provisions for bulk and can delivery were worked out to accommodate all producers.
2. Farmers producing replacement stock were assisted in de-horning, worming and marketing.
3. Three Bangs tours were conducted during the past year.
4. Production per cow was improved during the year due to better pastures, better feeding and culling of low producers.
5. Three dairymen have adopted the practice of worming growing calves.

Livestock

A. Situation

According to the 1954 Census Report there were a total of 4,647 hogs and pigs on 645 farms in the county, 204 sheep and lambs on 9 farms, and 1390 milk cows on 496 farms. King and Queen County has an average hog population of six per farm, beef cattle population of two per farm, milk cow population of 1.8, and sheep population of .27. (Sheep and hog numbers have increased during the past year to some extent.) Approximately 17% of the cropland is in permanent pasture.

B. Goals

1. Increase quality and quantity of livestock per farm.
2. Secure feeding and management of livestock during the winter feeding period on five farms.
3. Have more farmers balance their farming operations by the addition of livestock into their total farm program.

4. Initiate control of internal and external parasites on 10 farms.
5. Develop more and better pastures as a high quality cheap feed for livestock.
6. Develop better breeding stock in the county through use of purebred animals selected from 4-H Pig Projects.
7. Increase the acreage of supplementary pasture such as Sudan and Millet.
8. Fifty farmers to sell feeder pigs in organized market.

C. Methods and Results

1. There has been a 15% increase in the number of livestock on King and Queen farms. Most of this increase is in hogs and beef cattle and is a result of Extension programs in these fields.
2. Farmers were assisted in seeding and fertilizing pastures.
3. Plans for building corrals and loading chutes were distributed to three farmers. Two farmers were assisted in building feeding sheds.
4. Beef producers were encouraged to participate in Bangs vaccination.
5. All of the cattle in King and Queen were tested for Bangs using either the ring test or blood test.
6. A tour of the sheep farms in King and Queen was held. There were 40 present for all or part of the tour.
7. Plans for building farrowing houses were given to eight farmers. Information on farrowing problems was given farmers, individually, by radio, newspaper and letters.
8. An organization of hog raisers was formed and a director named to represent King and Queen in the Tappahannock Feeder Pig Association. Four King and Queen farmers assigned pigs to the first sale. There were 30 farmers from King and Queen present at the sale and plans to continue participation have been made.

Poultry

A. Situation

In 1950, 371 farms reported selling chickens, whereas, in 1954 only 161 farms sold chickens. Similarly in 1949, 623 farms reported selling eggs and in 1954 only 358 farms were selling eggs. During certain seasons of the year King and Queen has to import eggs to meet its own needs.

B. Goals

1. Get 10 farmers to increase size of laying hen enterprise.
2. Improve quality of eggs offered for sale from every poultry farm.
3. Improve market for King and Queen produced eggs.
4. Initiate record system for 50% of laying flocks.

C. Methods and Results

1. The poultry industry in King and Queen enjoyed a good year and had a substantial growth. Established producers, feed agents and Extension cooperated to give new producers information and advice as well as encouragement. It is expected that this growth will continue.
2. The agent assisted three prospective producers in making an inventory of facilities and estimating costs and returns.
3. The agent assisted individual farmers in planning egg rooms, nests, litter and ventilation problems and in feeding.

Forestry

A. Situation

The total area of King and Queen is 209,000 acres of which 156,000 is woodland. About 77% of the land in King and Queen is woodland, all privately owned.

Standing saw timber in King and Queen County:

256 million board feet of pine
65 million board feet of gum, poplar and soft maple
202 million board feet of oak, hickory and beech

The total of all standing saw timber as of 1956 was 523 million board feet

Saw timber being cut annually:

13 million feet of pine
<u>10 million feet of hardwood</u>
23 million feet cut yearly

One million 72 thousand cords of pine pulpwood growing in King and Queen.

42 thousand cords of pulpwood are being cut per year in King and Queen.

King and Queen was top county in the Tidewater area in setting pine seedlings for 1957 - 1958 - Setting out over 740,000 seedlings.

King and Queen is also one of the leading seed cone producers for the Tidewater area.

The value of all timber, pulpwood and posts sold equals the total of crops and livestock sold in the county each year.

In order to continue the sale of forest products, to improve, maintain and increase the diminishing forestry resources of the county, a Forestry Club was organized in 1956.

E. Goals

1. To have 15 4-H Club members set out 6,200 loblolly pine seedlings.
2. Increase the King and Queen senior Forestry Club membership 25 - 35 members.
3. Increase the King and Queen junior Forestry Club members from 5 to 15 members.
4. To set out 550,000 pine seedlings as a county objective.
5. To bulldoze 300 acres of woodland for tree planting.
6. To increase the number of acres of thinning of young fast growing pine stands.
7. To increase the number of acres of chemical killing of undesirable hardwoods followed by spot planting.

C. Methods and Results

1. Forestry was emphasized in 4-H Club work. Fourteen boys set out about 6000 seedlings. Eight of the boys entered their plantings in the Forestry Club contest.
2. The Forestry Club had 37 contestants who applied 56 practices on 1116 acres adding an estimated quarter million dollars to the potential wealth of King and Queen County. Prizes were given to 1st and 2nd winners in 6 categories of improvement work. Certificates and rosettes were given as well as money prizes.
3. Three quarters of a million pine seedlings were set out in 1958 in addition to the work done by the Chesapeake Corporation.
4. The Virginia Forest Service and the Chesapeake Corp. cooperated in the educational features of the program. Frequent conferences were held in the agents office coordinating all efforts.
5. The Forestry Club has issued membership cards which can be signed and carried by persons interested in King and Queen forests who perhaps will not be contestants in 1959.

Agronomy

A. Situation

Wheat, corn, soybeans, tobacco and vegetables are produced commercially in King and Queen County. Production of sun-cured tobacco is confined to the north-western end of the county. Farmers in the northern end raise tomatoes, corn, beans and sweet potatoes for the Richmond market. Those in the south-eastern portion market most of their vegetables in West Point. Wheat, corn and soybeans are produced commercially in all parts of the county.

Goals

1. Increase the use of cover crops on 25 farms.
2. Take soil samples and plan fertilizer program on 25 farms.
3. Five farmers to control garlic in wheat by spraying.

4. 15 farmers to increase income from vegetables through the use of standard packages. Marketing only quality produce and by using a complete spray program.
5. 30 farmers to top-dress small grains. 6 farmers to use liquid nitrogen this year.

C. Methods and Results

1. A liquid nitrogen demonstration on small grains was held on 4 farms in scattered parts of the county. Over 60 persons attended these demonstrations and 20 farmers used liquid nitrogen on corn, small grains and grasses.
2. The agent continued to stress the advantages of soil testing in planning time and fertilizer. This service is being used by an increasing number of farmers.
3. Winter cover crops were kept before the farmers through the press, radio and individual contacts. King and Queen fields are very satisfactorily green at this time.
4. The agent cooperated with the Hanover agent in organizing the Vegetable Growers Association. 5 growers from the Newtown district are members and plan to use the facilities and services in increasing numbers.
5. The growing of staked tomatoes and modern packaging methods were demonstrated on the farm tour held in connection with the Farm Bureau picnic.

4-H Club Work

A. Situation

There are approximately 180 boys in the county of 4-H Club age. The 4-H enrollment at the beginning of the year was 59. We have to hold our meetings at school during the activity period and other activities keep the older boys from attending if the meetings are held out of school hours, the county is so long and the attendance is very poor.

King and Queen County is long and narrow, rather thinly settled, which makes it difficult to organize into community groups.

More cooperation could and should be exercised to better 4-H Club and F.F.A work at one of the county high schools. If it were possible, both organizations would be improved.

B. Goals

1. To develop a 4-H program that will be of value and interest to all members.
2. To have 15 4-H Club members set out 6,200 pine seedlings.
3. To have two 4-H County Council meetings during the year.
4. To average 7 pigs per litter in the 4-H Pig Chain Program.
5. To hold "Share-the-Fun Program."
6. To observe Rural Life Sunday.
7. To have County Achievement Day in the fall.
8. To have 15 boys attend 4-H Camp at Jamestown.
9. To have 85% completion of all projects.
10. To have one boy enter District Junior Public Speaking Contest.
11. To have one boy attend 4-H Short Course.
12. To have three 4-H members enter their 4-H Dairy cows at the State Fair in Richmond.

C. Methods and Results

1. Attempts to develop a 4-H program to interest all members included conferences with the 4-H Committee, parents, teachers, 4-H County Council and the agents.
2. Fourteen 4-H boys set out about 6000 pine seedlings and 6 entered the Forestry Club contest. Several of the boys are interested in adding to some killing practices for 1959.
3. Two meetings of the County Council were held. Attendance was good and members participated in the planning.
4. The 4-H pig chain had a very successful year. All of the litters were excellent and 5 gilts placed for the coming year. Farmers are very happy to be able to secure some of this stock to improve their own.
5. King and Queen 4-H Club observed the National 4-H days, such as Share-the-Fun, Rural Life Sunday, and the County Achievement Day. No Guernsey's were exhibited at ARE this year because of the illness of a key member.
6. Three boys attended the Jamestown 4-H Club Camp, one boy attended the Short Course and one boy participated in the district Junior Public Speaking Contest.

IV. Minor Projects

Orchard and Small Fruits

A. Situation

There is one commercial peach orchard in King and Queen. Most farms have a few trees and several farmers grow berries for local markets.

B. Goals

1. Increase the income from peaches on one farm.
2. Six farmers to plant Pocahontas strawberries.

C. Methods and Results

1. All orchard and small fruit work was on an individual basis.
2. Result demonstrations on pruning were given on 4 farms.
3. There were two plantings of Pocahontas strawberries.

Home Garden

A. Situation

Farmers have allowed their interest in home gardens to lag since horses have become scarce.

B. Goals

1. Increase the number of fall gardens in King and Queen.
2. Encourage the use of new vegetables and new varieties.

C. Methods and Results

1. The monthly garden letter was sent to 200 families and was well received.
2. The year-round garden was stressed on farm visits. The agent was possibly the big winner here. The conversation would turn to his plans for a garden next year. More often than not, he was given generous samples of the farmers vegetables. The agent is on the spot.