PLAN OF WORK

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

1955

R. F. MARSHALL, COUNTY AGENT

F. D. BASHAM, ASSISTANT COUNTY AGENT

W. W. OSBORNE, ASSISTANT COUNTY AGENT

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY

Brunswick County lies in Southside Virginia between the Counties of Greensville and Mecklenburg and contains 557 sq. miles. There are approximately 175 beef producers in the county with about 6,500 beef cattle, 43 Grade A dairies averaging about 35 cows per dairy.

Brunswick County has a crop acreage of approximately 8,000 acres of tobacco, 850 acres of peanuts, 2,200 acres of cotton. The county losses approximately 50 acres of cotton and peanuts each year from non-planting of acreage. This is over and above any decrease in allotments.

The average size farm in Brunswick County is a little over 100 acres. These farms are becomming more and more diversified instead of a one crop farm.

Most farmers in the county grow enough grain for home use. In normal years some wheat and corn is sold commercially.

There are no cities within or bordering Brunswick County and the largest town in the county has a population of approximately 2,300. The trend - urban and rural is static. Few farm people are leaving the county for industry. There are approximately 2,500 farms in the county.

Due to the severe drought conditions in 1953 and 1954 and a partial drought of 1955, the financial situation of farmers in the county is poor. Our lending agencies this year seem to be doing a tremendous business. It is anticipated that this business will increase with the advent of spring and planting time.

More and more farmers are being forced to turn to such agencies as the FHA and the Production Credit for loans due to the fact that they are refinanced and don't have sufficient security to secure loans from the banks. It is not, however, anticipated that lending agencies within the county will not be able to take care of the situation.

Generally the outlook for production for 1955 will be substancially over that of 1954. This of course will be true only if we have sufficient moisture for our crops. With the shortage of funds and many farmers trying to "cut corners" it is apparent that some of these farmers will lose income by not using the amounts and analysis of fertilizer, the lime, and the quality seeds that should be used. Things that are being done to offset this will be discussed later in this plan.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXTENSION PLAN FOR 1955

The 1955 Plan of Work was developed through the different committees of the County Board of Agriculture. These committees working with the farmers in their area and with situations within the county using census reports and with knowledge of the farm situation, have worked out the many different activities that they feel would be best for the farmers of the county. These activities and procedures for carrying them out will be discussed under activities later on in the report.

COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF

The Extension staff in Brunswick consists of County Agent, Assistant County Agent, one-third time Assistant Agent for Tobacco, County Home Agent and office secretary.

All undertakings in educational phases of the extension program, the local extension representatives endeavor to coordinate their work with other agencies, businesses, etc. of the county.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 1955

AGRONOMY

1. Corn

The average corn yield in Brunswick is approximately 40 bushels per acre. This is considerable lower than it should be and could be if more farmers would use Hybrids and use correct fertilization and management practices. Corn is not a major part of the farm income; however, some corn

in good years is sold commercially. With normal years, insofar as moisture is concerned, enough corn is grown in the county for county use.

To increase yields of corn in the county the following plans were made with the Agronomy Committee.

a. The setting up of one demonstration in each district in the county using approximately one acre in this demonstration and the treating of this one acre according to the recommended practices from the experiment stations.

b. Having local meetings at these demonstrations to show the difference between this acre and the remainder of the farmer's crop or other farmer's corn crop nearby.

c. Emphasis on the use of fertilizer and seed through these demonstrations and through press and radio as well as three general fertilizer, lime, and seed meetings to be held in the county.

2. Peanuts

Peanuts are becomming more and more a minor crop in the county. Most of the peanuts are grown by colored people and by the tenants. It is the general feeling of the farmers that the tenant is going to do about as he pleases on the few acres of peanuts; therefore, the committee decided the work done on peanuts should be through the radio and press and the sending of timely information to the peanut farmers in the form of leaflets as has been done in the past years.

3. Cotton

The cotton situation in the county is about that of peanuts in that most of the cotton grown is by tenants and it is extremely hard to reach these tenants except through the landlord and possibly through the ginner. The quality of cotton as harvested in the county is very poor.

The work as outlined by the Agronomy Committee for cotton would be the dissemination of timely information through newspaper, radio and timely leaflets. The major part of the work on producing quality cotton and the use

of the recommended cotton variety will be done through the three ginners in the county.

4. Pasture

Pastures in the county are not producing the amount of forage that they should, mainly due to the dry weather of the last three years. Other causes of this decrease of forage production of our pastures is the lack of good management, such as rotational grazing and fertilization. The lack of fertilization in the beef industry is due to the fall of prices of beef cattle. With the price now somewhat stabilized and an outlook for the price to increase somewhat, it is felt that better work can be done with beef men on fertilization and managing pasture.

Plans for pasture work through the Agronomy Committee are to work with the dairymen and the beef cattle men on the pasture management, especially the fertilization of pasture and the rotation, with the addition of special emphasis on supplementary pasture in summer and winter, crops that can be used for either pasture or hay.

Pastures will be discussed further under the dairy and beef projects.

5. Hay

There needs to be increased emphasis on the production of hay for use within the county. Uusually in a normal year, enough hay is produced by our beef cattle producers; however, dairymen sometimes buy considerable amount of their hay. Another problem in this respect has been the available cheap peanut hay. Some dairymen and beef cattle men feel that they can buy this hay cheaper than they can grow their own. There are problems in this line of thinking that could in a normal year insofar as high production is concerned give our beef cattle and dairy producers severe trouble. If for instance, we should have an abnormal amount of rain during peanut harvest time, our peanut hay would be very poor quality. Plans outlined for work on hay is as follows.

a. Work with the beef cattle and dairymen in an effort to increase home grown hay and where necessary - a concentrated hay crop such as alfalfa.

b. Work with these two groups in an effort to produce a better quality of hay and more spring hay.

c. The use of cover crops and supplemtary pasture which can be used for hay if necessary.

d. The use of late winter oats for immediate grazing and for hay and or ensilage.

6. Rotations

The rotation of our crops is one of the major problems in the county, however, with the disease situation, more and more farmers are rotating their tobacco; therefore, will be rotating other crops as well. Demonstrations on the rotation of crops will be incorporated in the corn demonstrations mentioned above. Another emphasis on rotation of crops will be through the tobacco work as well as through the press, radio and timely informational leaflets on rotations.

7. Fertilizer, lime and seed work

Most farmers in Brunswick County agree that if any crop in the county is over-fertilized, it is tobacco. Most farmers will agree that other crops are not fertilized as they should be. One of the problems in getting the amount and analysis used that should be used according to experiment station's recommendations is a decrease in income for the farmer. Fertilizer dealers say when farm income goes down, the farmers cut on their fertilizer in amounts and cheaper analysis. He also cuts on the use of lime and certified seed.

To bring other farmers information on the use of fertilizer, lime and seed, three general meetings will be held in the spring in different areas of the county with participation of the dealers to get before the farmer the economic use and how it will pay even with lower prices to use enough and the correct analysis of fertilizer, to use enough lime, and to use seed of

recommended varieties and seed that are certified or of known quality.

These meetings will be held in the three general areas of the county with the cooperation of the three Ruritan Clubs and our fertilizer, lime and seed dealers covering the county.

LIVESTOCK

1. Beef

The numbers of beef cattle in the county are static and have been for the last two years. The quality of cattle are not what they should be. A number of small, 5-10 cow, beefmen have considerable dairy blood in their herd.

The quality of calves in the county are not as good as they should be, especially from the above mentioned herds and are not as good as they should be from some of the better herds in our feeder calf sales. Some of the causes of the poor quality are: When beef cattle were high, all female animals were retained in their herd even though the quality was poor. Cattle were not culled and heifers were kept in the herd that were of inferior quality and because of the cost, bulls of lower quality were kept and bought for herd sires. The plans as outlined by the livestock committee for the year are as follows:

a. To give publicity and demonstrations in an effort to increase the quality of the calves kept for replacements and for our feeder calf markets.

b. Have demonstrations in August on the selection of replacement heifers.

c. Have demonstrations in late May or early June on culling of the herd.

d. Continue to work and put increased emphasis on a good forage plan for the beef cattle producers and in this connection have timely field meetings and timely forage planned meetings, such as schools.

e. Continue to give publicity to the different sales within the buying area of the county where livestock men can secure good replacement bulls and to explore the possibility of a county sale which would include Hereford and

Angus and selling for the commercial grower.

2. Sheep

Sheep numbers in the county are considerzbly lower than they should be. Most beef and dairy farmers realize the profit available from sheep and would like to be in the sheep business; however, farms are fenced with barbed wire and the dog problem is such that most farmers are afraid to grow sheep.

It was decided that the work on sheep would be confined to giving the economic value of having sheep on the farm and the sending of timely information on management to the sheep producers; increase the publicity to the sheep producer and the personal contacts in an effort to get more producers to consign to the Blackstone Wool Pool.

3. Hogs

The work on hogs for Brunswick County would be, as has been in the past, the publishing through press and radio of timely information and current outlook for hog producers.

4. Dairying

Some of the major problems of the dairymen in the county and probably the major problem of the dairyman is lack of interest in dairy programs that would bring information on better management. It has been extremely hard to get the dairyman interested in field meetings, tours for schools, that would help him in his management problems.

Some of the biggest problems of the dairymen in the county is the lack of a good culling program and the production of good replacement heifers. Another problem is producing enough high quality hay for the herd.

The following outline by the dairy committee will be used during the year 1955 and as a long time program in an effort to increase the efficiency of the dairyman.

A K S A F E T Y

a. More emphasis on adequate forage plan including the use of more concentrated hay crop, such as alfalfa.

b. The building of more fertile pasture using adequate fertilizer and lime and increasing the acreage of pasture with a good rotational system to give adequate pasture at all times for the herd. Adding another pasture system - summer and winter grazing, that can if necessary be used for hay or ensilage.

c. Activities to be worked on as follows: In the fall demonstrations on culling and selection of better replacement heifers; January and February - seeding and management including the production of hay and the production of ensilage; June - managed grazing and supplementary pasture; July and August - culling, selection of heifers and fall feeding; December - general management and tours.

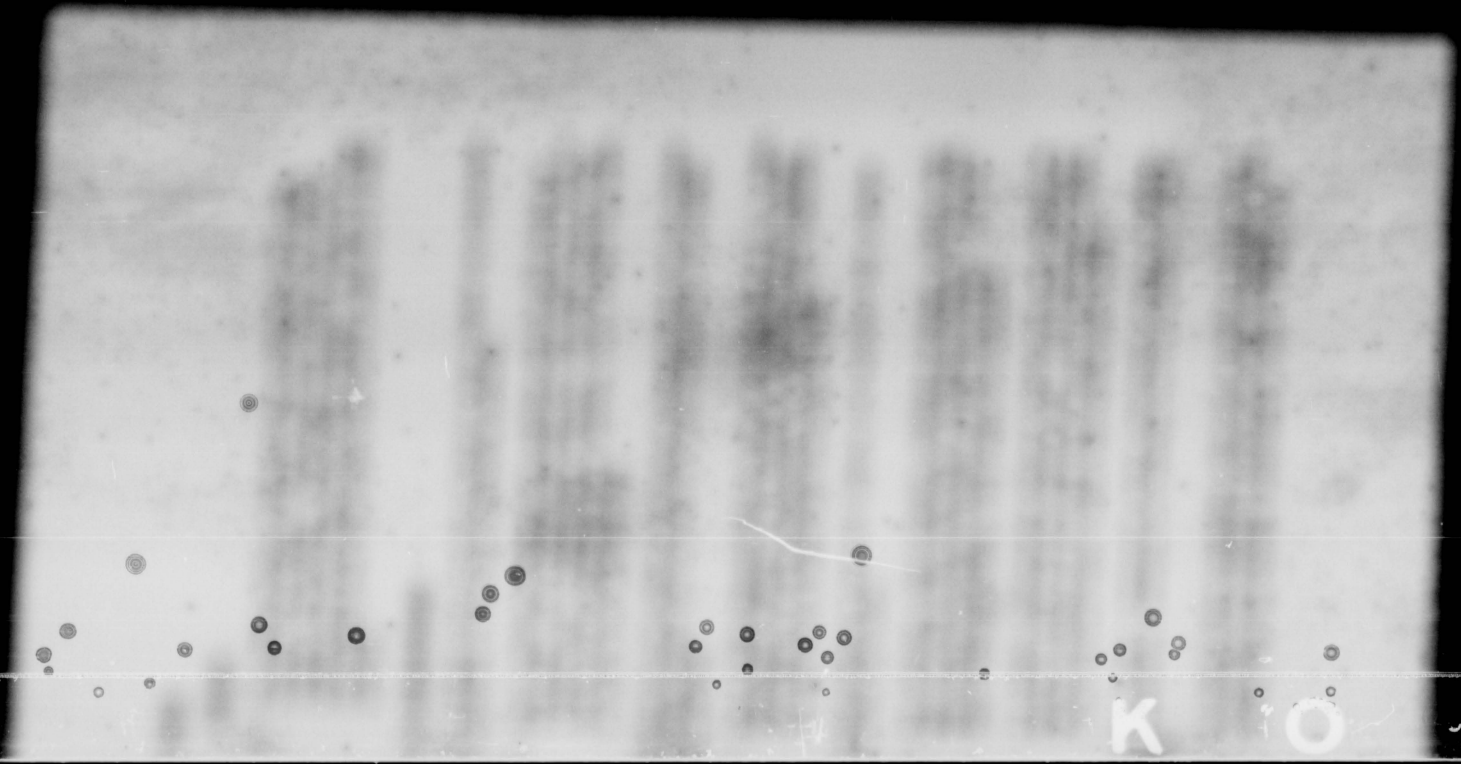
LIVESTOCK SHOW

In 1954 the first Brunswick County livestock show was held with a tremendous amount of interest and plans were begun for another show for 1955. The general consensus of the show committee and the three Ruritan Clubs, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, is that the show this year should be held in the fall.

The show is a joint effort of the three Ruritan clubs, the Chamber of Commerce and the Extension Service in the county. The show will be consigned to dairy and beef animals and also sheep. This livestock show will probably be in conjunction with the Farm Family Festival put on by the Town of Lawrenceville.

The purpose of the livestock show is to put more emphasis on quality in our beef and dairy industries.

Meetings of the different committees involved are being held in March and April to outline the overall program.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FORESTRY

The overall interest in forestry work in the county is increasing substancially even though for the last 6 months the marketing of pulp wood has been erratic and at the present time all mills have discontinued orders for pulp wood.

Out of a total land area of 370,000 acres there are approximately 247,000 acres in forest land in the county. Of this forest land approximately 68% is in farm woodland. It is estimated also that this farm wood land would be near 50% hardwood, which are of no merchantable value. The hard wood control and getting the hardwood land into a desirable species of pine is one of the biggest problems in forestry. In connection with this problem it seems that a considerable amount of our hardwood forest are of such nature that it would not be economically sound to do more toward getting this land into merchantable timber except for cutting wood for burning tobacco beds, curing tobacco and possibly hardwood poisoning at slack labor periods.

The major goals of the forest committee of the county are to get more of our hardwoods killed and desirable pines growing on this land. Another goal is to get the land that is not suitable for crops or pasture into forest.

To reach the above goals, the committee has outlined the following project for the 1955 plan of work:

1. Continue the annual forestry school with emphasis on hardwood control, seed trees, scarification, and tree planting.

2. Set up and carry through a Brunswick County forestry contest with adults and juniors participating. The awards of this contest would be given at the annual forestry school and from the contestants throughout the county, small demonstrational plots for community meetings would be picked.

3. Give publicity to the advantages of good forestry practices through press and radio and personal contacts.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

On the farm and home development program, it is hoped that as many as three farm families in different areas of the county can be picked in 1955 and started on plans under this program. It is also hoped that more farmers can be picked in 1956 for a total of 5-7 in the county.

SOCIAL SECURITY MEETINGS

Since Social Security is a major problem for farmers and farm operators, three general county meetings will be planned for the purpose of disseminating information to farmers on their Social Security problems. Other meetings throughout the county during the year will be held if the demand is such that they need be.

4-H CLUB PROGRAM

There are 210 4-H boys in the club program in Brunswick County. The program is carried through the cooperation of the schools in the county with no outside organized clubs insofar as the boys are concerned. Club meetings are held in these schools once each month and the project work discussed at these meetings is usually of an overall club nature, such as Health project.

The club program for the year is developed through the cooperation of the County 4-H Council, adult leaders and club members. The actual planning in carrying out the club program is done by leaders and county extension personnel.

MAJOR PROJECTS FOR 1955

1. Swine

Swine is the project that carries the most interest with club members in the county. Most of the boys would rather carry a pig

project probably because it is the easiest project to get and because there are always pigs around the farm. One of the stumbling blocks in this project is the lack of interest on the part of the parents. They seem to be willing to give the club member a pig but do not guide the club member in his care of the pig.

This situation is being altered somewhat by the use of the pig chain set up by the Sears Roebuck Foundation. This project is more closely supervised since there are only 5 in the project and sufficient time can be given to these club boys. The following are some of the ways that are being used to get better swine projects.

a. To get the Sears Roebuck pig Chain pigs into communities where interest in the pig project is high and if possible into a community that has not had the pig chain before.

b. Use this high interest as a tool to get interest in other communities.

c. Teach better production and management practices and especially teach the parents so that the boy will have more interest and have a better project.

It is felt that the above can be carried out best by working more closely with the parents of the club members and showing them the advantages of a good club project.

FARM AND HOME SAFETY PROJECT

The farm and home safety project is an overall project used in the schools where both boys and girls participate. The idea of the project is to teach the young club members Safety in the home and on the Farm, since a great percentage of accidents are caused by carelessness and unsafe devices on the farm and home. Some of the goals of this project are:

a. Make every 4-H club farm home a safe place in which to live.

b. To get each family traffic and safety conscious, both on the farm and on the highways.

c. To get farm families to be more coucious during heavy working seasons and to plan their safety campaigns during the slack working season on the farm.

These Safety devices and reasons why are demonstrated during club meetings throughout the county.

4-H FARM AND HOME ELECTRIC PROJECT

Many 4-H homes do not have the proper lighting and the proper amount of light for studying and reading. Most of the 4-H farm homes do not have the proper wiring, especially wiring for out-buildings. The program for the electric project is as follows:

a. Try to expand the project so that all club members in the county can participate.

b. Impress upon the club members the importance and the place of electricity in the home.

c. Teach him to make his own lamp and to use correct lighting.

d. Teach him how to care for farm electrical appliances and electrical equipment.

e. Teach the correct method of replacing fuses and the correct method of wiring for outside use.

To stimulate the interest in the 4-H Club project it is hoped that we can have an outstanding boy and girl to represent the county in the 4-H Electric Congress and to have a club member compete for district and state awards.

With the help of the county leaders, a two-day 4-H farm and home electric clinic will be held and the clinic will be composed of a workshop, lectures, and motion pictures on the use of electricity.

SPECIAL TOBACCO PROJECT

A special project on tobacco work was added in 1954 through the cooperation of the Tobacco Associates called the Junior Tobacco Show and Sale Contest. This is not however the regular 4-H Club Tobacco project. Other club members carry a tobacco project who are not in the special show and sale contest. This project is sponsored by the local warehousemen and the Virginia Agricultural Extension Service along with the Tobacco Associates of Virginia.

The quality of tobacco in the county needs to be improved, more emphasis on the grading and the handling of the tobacco, correct displaying while selling are brought out through this club projedt and it is hoped that this will encourage the farmers to do a better job.

The following goals were set up for the increased quality of tobacco for the county.

a. To get better quality of tobacco to the buyer.

b. Improve the grading and handling of tobacco.

c. Better marketing practices.

It is hoped that these goals can be reached through teaching and demonstrations with the 4-H Club members and having a public sale where emphasis is given to the overall management in an effort to produce high quality tobacco.

BEEF PROJECT

Six 4-H boys and girls will show and sell baby beeves in the 1955 4-H Baby Beef Show and Sale in Petersburg.

Emphasis on the baby beef project is on training of the animal for showing, selection of a calf for feeding and feed and management practices of the calf.

Club members as well as the agents in the county are not satisfied with the 4-H Baby Beef Show and Sale as it is now set up. We feel that we are not teaching the boy and girl economic production of beef. We feel that

NEW COUNTY BEGINS

the project should be set up on a short pasture and short feed basis. Our goals in the baby beef project as it is now operated are:

a. Feed and water animals regularly so as to establish a habit of good feeding practices.

b. Spent more time and care on the animal and in training and fitting. Encourage the club members to add 5 or 6 beef animals on the farm where possible.

c. Show the advantages of proper selection of calves according to breeding and confirmation.

It is hoped that these goals may be reached by familiarizing the parents more with the project and with 4-H Club work and publicizing the results of the Baby Beef Show and Sale.

4-H TRACTOR MAINTENANCE

This is the second time that the 4-H Tractor Maintenance project has been started in the county. The first project failed because of lack of interest by the club members. The machinery dealers are cooperating 100% in the Tractor Maintenance project.

There needs to be increased emphasis on tractor maintenance and safety and operating of tractors in the county since more young farmers are going for all-out tractor work on their farms. One of the biggest handicaps in this project is the same that we meet in other projects and that is the lack of interest to some degree on club members' part after the project is started and a complete lack of interest on the part of the parents. Club members seem to be enthusiastic until after the project is under way. The goals of this project are:

a. Have approximately 15 outstanding club members enrolled in the project.

b. Have a 4-H tractor contest the first year.

c. Teach the club member the proper care of tractors.

d. Publicize the project and work toward district and state winners.

To reach these goals, the project will be given publicity through the radio and press and through the local contest, as well as getting the equipment dealers to sponsor advertisements in connection with the contest in the county paper.

DAIRY PROJECT

The members of the dairy club need more training on the selection of calves, judging, showing and proper management. There is little interest in the dairy project. Some of this decrease of interest is due to the fact that there are few boys and girls in the county from homes that have Grade A dairies. The following are the goals for the dairy club project.

a. Hold selection, judging, and showing demonstrations.

b. Attempt to get members to enter the district dairy judging and showing contest.

c. Try to interest more members in entering the dairy project.

Some of the methods to be used to reach the above goals are the tour of dairy farms so that the club member can see the value and advantages of proper selection, demonstrations on fitting and showing for the club member and have all of the 4-H dairy club members participate in the 1955 five county district dairy judging show and contest. Also to make personal visits to all prospective dairy club members and their families in an effort to interest the parents and the prospective member in the dairy project.

COUNTY TOBACCO PROGRAM

The following is the plan of work for the county tobacco program as outlined by the County Tobacco Committee and the Assistant Agent working on tobacco.

Activities

1. Tobacco disease and insect control

2. Instructing growers as to recommended practices to use in producing quality tobacco.

3. Inform growers as to need of doing a better job of grading and preparing tobacco for market.

Situation:

Our tobacco situation at the beginning of 1955 is as follows:

a. 2017 flue cured tobacco farm operators are alloted 7,009 acres of tobacco. A 5% cut from 1954 of 7,378 acres.

b. Due to three severe drought years about 15 Brunswick County tobacco growers have built irrigation ponds or intend to have ponds built to irrigate from this year.

c. Production problems confronting our growers at the present time are:

1. Black Shank and/or Granville wilt on approximately one-half of the County tobacco farms.

2. Heavy infestation of rootknot nematodes in fields previously cropped to tobacco.

3. Blue mold remains a problem.

d. Too few growers are giving sufficient thought to proper sorting, handling and preparation of tobacco for market.

Immediate Recognized Needs are:

1. For growers to be able to identify various tobacco diseases.

2. Instruct growers as to the best cultural practices to use in

raising a better quality tobacco and in combating various tobacco diseases and insects.

3. For growers to realize the importance of proper sorting, handling and preparation of tobacco for market so as to be in a favorable position to compete with foreign growers for world market.

In 1955, the following will be attempted in order to meet the needs outlined above.

1. Tobacco production meetings (5) scheduled at county stores and school houses to discuss varieties, plant bed management, fertilization, cultural methods, disease and insect control.

2. Plant bed weed control demonstration on method af applying Methyl Bromide and results.

3. Planting (6) varietal demonstrations in the county so growers can observe and evaluate characteristics of leading and newly released varieties.

4. Promote Junior Tobacco Show and Sales Contest in the county to emphasize to the young as well as adult farmers the importance of following recommended practices in tobacco production and stress the importance of proper grading and preparation of tobacco for market.

5. Schedule grading schools at several locations in the county with U. S. D. A. tobacco inspectors assisting.

Program will be gotten to people by meetings, demonstrations, periodical mailings, radio and newspaper with county and district tobacco committees cooperating.

January, February and March -

1. Meet with County and District tobacco committees to formulate yearly plan of work.

2. Arrange and hold indoor tobacco production meetings.

3. Enroll and work with 4-H Junior Tobacco Show and Sale contestants.

4. Mail periodical leaflets on fertilizer recommendations and plant

bed management to all county tobacco growers.

April, May and June

1. Work with 4-H Tobacco Show and Sale contestants and parents

2. Conduct fertilizer and fumigation demonstrations at various localities in the county.

3. Supervise the planting of varietal demonstrations in the county.

4. Assist growers in the method of applying fumigant to the soil to control nematodes.

5. Mail to county tobacco growers leaflets on control of tobacco insects, and the use of mineral oil to control suckers.

July, August and September

1. Hold meetings at varietal, fumigation and fertilizer placement demonstrations.

2. Assist growers with disease problems.

3. Organize tours to Chatham Bright Tobacco Research Station.

4. Visit 4-H Show and Sale contestants and work with parents.

5. Hold disease clinics at following locations:

Alberta School House	White Plains
Danieltown	Gasburg
Settles' Store	Valentines
Warfield	Fitzhugh
Smoky Ordinary	Brandon's Store
Charlie Hope P.O.	Dolphin

6. Hold tobacco grading schools at three locations in county.

Oct. Nov. and December

1. Assist in Junior Tobacco Show and Sale Contest.

2. Visit farmers to diagnose disease.

3. Select sites and treat plant beds with Methyl Bromide as weed control demonstration.

4. Visit district tobacco committee members.

5. Meet with District Tobacco Committees to review work done in 1955 and

plans for 1956.

6. Meet with County Tobacco Committee to review recommendations of District Tobacco Committees and formulate yearly plans of work for 1956.

Tobacco Production meetings to be held at following locations:

Danieltown - School House

Vaughan's Store-Dolphin

Lawrenceville High School

South Brunswick Community House

Dolphin Community House

Varietal demonstrations on following farms.

Earl Bishop	John Clay
E. L. Edwards	Freddie Kirkland
W. M. Anderson	Clayton Steed

Plant bed weed control demonstrations locations:

Reid Settle	Atwell Parrish
E. L. Edwards	A. T. Finch

Participants in soil fumigation demonstration to be selected later by chairman, District Tobacco Committee.

The following county and district tobacco committees will cooperate on the program:

TOTARO DISTRICT
F. M. Kirkland, Chairman
John Clay
J. M. Matthews
Lloyd Rogers
W. A. Thomas

RED OAK DISTRICT
Louis Epperson, Chairman
Earl Bishop
Ruben Marcuson
P. B. Hawthorne
R. L. Ozlin

STURGEON DISTRICT
W. H. Lucy, Jr., Chairman
J. Atwell Parrish
William Steed
O. L. Corum
L. S. Vaughan

POWELTON DISTRICT
J. P. Wright, Chairman
R. B. Baird
E. M. Moody
E. L. Chambliss
Norman Pearson

MEHERRIN DISTRICT
E. L. Edwards, Chairman
H. L. Taylor
J. J. Cannon
Wiley Wright

Work closely with County and District Tobacco Committees in planning and following through on an aggressive tobacco program covering material outlined in this plan of work.

Specialists help needed on the following:

1. Junior Tobacco Show and Sale Contest
2. Grading schools to be held in September.
3. Various field meetings

Annual Report

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

1955

R. F. Marshall
agent

F. D. Basham
assistant agent

Brunswick
county

1955

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

of

R. F. Marshall, County Agent

Miss Jessie Sadler, Stenographer

Brunswick County

Lawrenceville, Virginia

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I. Description of County Organization

The Extension Service of Brunswick County consists of county agent, assistant county agent to do mainly 4-H club work, assistant county agent one-third time (vacant) did mostly tobacco work, home demonstration agent (vacant), stenographer, and negro farm and home agents. The negro farm and home agents offices are separate, however work in the county in so far as possible is coordinated.

II. Types of Agriculture

There are approximately 2,650 farms in Brunswick County. The average size farm in the county is about 110 acres. Generally speaking, farming is becoming more diversified and the livestock industry is on the increase.

There are approximately 7,000 acres of flue cured tobacco grown in the county, 2,200 acres of cotton, and 900 acres of peanuts.

There are at present 45 Grade A dairies, consisting of approximately 3,500 head of dairy cattle including replacements. Dairying accounts for approximately 550 thousand dollars income in the county.

Beef cattle increased at a tremendous rate during the high years from about 1949 to 1952; however, this increase in beef cattle has slowed up but there are still a few but steady increases.

III. Planning the Extension Program

The planning of the Agricultural Extension program in the county is carried on with the aid of different committees of farm men and women in so far as possible. Major programs are never undertaken without the assistance of a group of farm men and women.

Functions of these committees will be explained more in detail in the following portion of this report.

IV. Activities Receiving Major Emphasis

A. Tobacco

There were several phases of tobacco production given special emphasis in 1955. The biggest problem in tobacco production for the county is the production of quality tobacco. There are several reasons why the farmers are not producing the quality tobacco that they should. Among these reasons are rotation of tobacco land, diseases, varieties used, and preparing for market.

The tobacco program of the county is carried on through the tobacco committee which consists of one man from each district in the county and through a subcommittee with the district representative on the overall committee being chairman of the local district committee.

Demonstrations of varieties were carried out in these districts with five to seven varieties being grown in each demonstration plot. Meetings were held on a committee basis once or twice during the year. Discussions on good cultural practices such as rotation, spraying and dusting, and sucker control were carried on.

To formulate these activities, the committee in each district got together and set up a plan of work for their district which included work on the major problems as viewed by these farmers.

The beginning of the tobacco program of work in the county was through general meetings throughout the county discussing overall production. These meetings were attended very well but with less interest than has been heretofore. Demonstrations which followed the general meetings were such demonstrations as measures to control weeds in tobacco plant beds using aero cyanamid and the new fumigants. There was considerable interest in the use of the fumigant but very little interest in the use of cyanamid. This is contributed to the fact that the fumigant is new but cyanamid has been used for several years.

Further emphasis on tobacco production were given in the form of leaflets sent to all producers in the county on each phase of production. These leaflets were sent on a timely basis.

To emphasize the correct handling and marketing of quality tobacco, a 4-H club program was carried out which will be mentioned later in Club work.

Some of the main results of the tobacco program seem to be more rotation with cover crops and the tangible results after talking with many farmers and visiting many markets is a better product on the market. More and more are seeing the results of beginning with the pland beds and carrying out recommended practices all the way throughout the market. There is still, of course, a long way to go in getting more of the tobacco growers to practice better production methods.

The end result is to get a better quality tobacco on the market. This is to be emphasized on the overall tobacco program for 1956. It is felt that this can best be done by carrying the program from the plant bed to the tobacco warehouse.

It seems to be more difficult every year to interest very many farmers in demonstrations and getting them to view results of demonstrations in a group. This could be a result of the intensified program in the county to get information to farmers through other channels. It is also found that after approximately two years of demonstrations on any one practice the interest is very low.

B. Forestry

The interest in forestry in the county has been intensified over the last couple of years, partly because of the cut in income to the farmer through lower prices, increased costs, and dry weather. One of the main problems facing our forests in the county is to get more of the woodland into good producing timber since approximately 67% of the area of the county is in farm woodland. Of this 67%, it is estimated that probably 30% is not timber of any immediate commercial value and of this 30%, of course, there is an unknown amount of young timber that will not be ready for market for several years.

Bringing the hardwood land into good production is one of the main problems of the people and one that has been receiving a lot of interest through the county forestry committee.

The county forestry committee in the beginning of the year set up a program attempting to br ng to the farmers more up-to-date information on overall woodland management and trying to educate the landowner to the fact that his trees are another crop just like his tobacco crop.

The work on forestry was carried on in two major ways. First, a forestry school was held in January with major emphasis on tree planting and on converting hardwood land to the production of good pine timber. This forestry school has been carried on for several years. During this year's school, more emphasis was put on overall woodland management. This was done because most farmers need to know how to plant, how to take good care of a stand of pine, and how to get hardwood land into pine production since practically all farmers have a place for each of these practices.

The county forestry committee, which is one of the most active committees in the county, was very effective in helping to carry on this program. They helped to outline the school and carry it out. The school was used in the form of classroom teaching as well as actual demonstrations on a farm where all recommended practices had been carried out by the landowner under the supervision of technical foresters.

Another phase of the forestry program outlined by the forestry committee was the forestry contest. All persons interested in forestry were able to join this contest and carry out one or more good forestry practices. A total of 33 adults and juniors entered the contest. The committee felt that this was an excellent number and was close to the maximum number that could be worked with. Twenty of these completed their project and others were complete or near completion, however, did not have time to participate in the final phase of the contest. This program was given a lot of publicity and was carried out with enthusiasm. The better projects from this contest will be used for community meetings in the future.

The cooperation of the people, other agricultural workers, commercial interest, and public agencies were excellent for the forestry project. All of these helped to publicize the different forestry projects in the county and aided in such things as judging and helping with demonstrations. The banks and wood using industries of the county furnished prize money and banquets in connection with the project. A total of $200.00 was given in prizes for the forestry contest as well as a banquet for all participants at the end of the contest year when prizes were announced. The dinner for all in attendance at the forestry school was given by one of the local wood using industries. This was in addition to what had been given by these people in advertising the program.

The result of this program seems to be two fold. First, through the publicity we were able to get more people interested in better forestry work. We were also able to get the interest of the general public in forestry conservation and improvement as well as those people who were working on specific projects.

The second result of the program was to get the commercial interest, wood using industries as well as other businesses, to work together on this one project and help to support it. A wood using industry through a local bank gave about three quarters of a million trees for planting. They also sold materials for killing hardwoods at 50% of the retail cost.

The work for 1956 will be carried on in much the same way as the work for 1955. Plans have already been made for a county wide forestry program which it is thought may take the place of the county wide school. This program is different from the school in that it would consist of films and talks. The forestry committee is also planning local meetings at the areas mentioned before in this report throughout the county so as to bring to these people practices that were carried out by contestants through the use of their own farm labor and own initative with any assistance that they ask for by technical foresters. From the experience of the committee and others working with the forestry contest committee, some revisions have been made but in general the contest will be the same as for last year.

8

C. Soil and Water Conservation

Although some work throughout the years on soil and water conservation has been done, more emphasis was put on this phase of the work in 1955 because of the Small Watershed Acts of Congress.

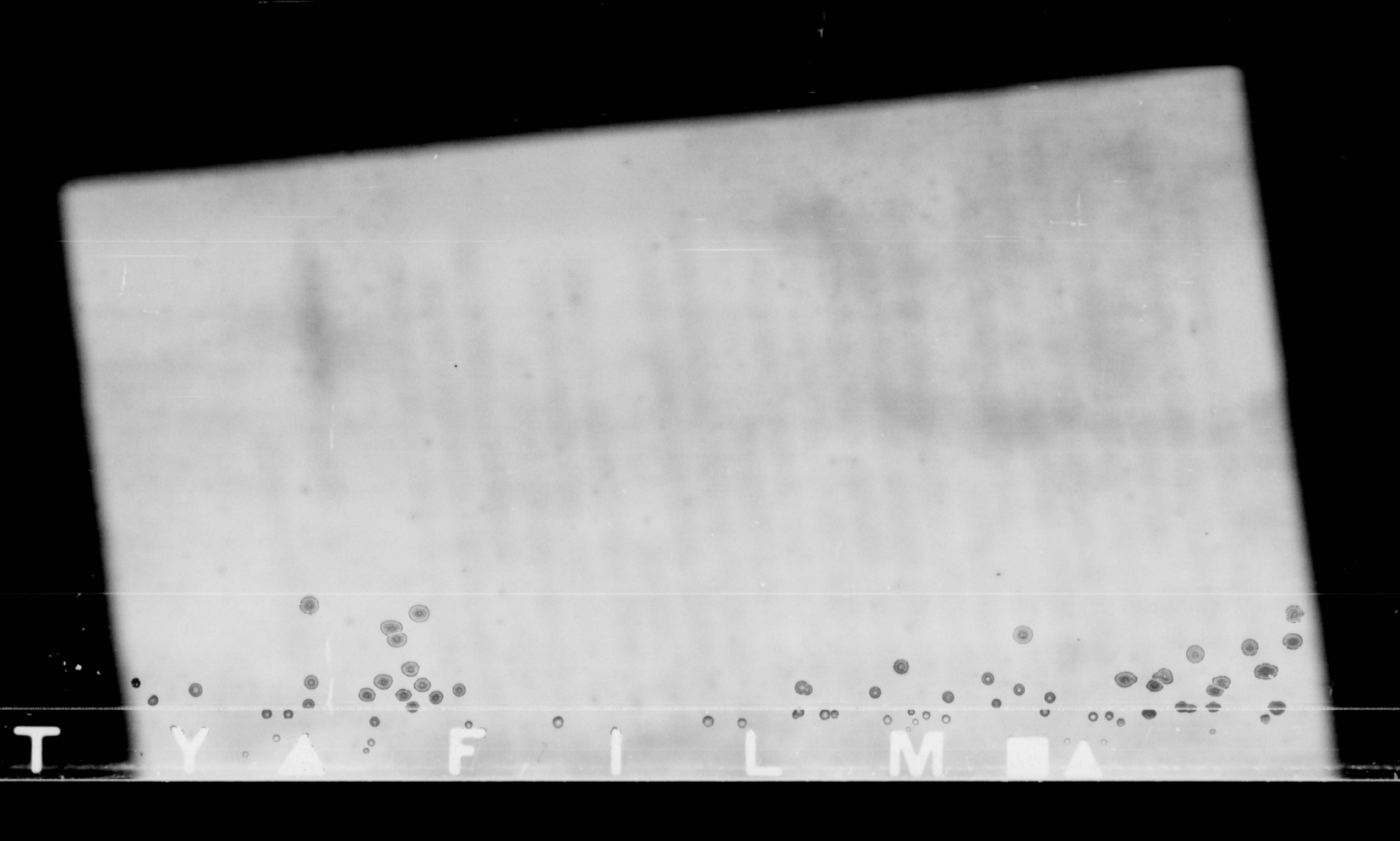
Soil and water conservation is, of course, only one phase of overall farm management. It is an important phase but probably not any more important than other phases of farm management since with soil and water management and no management of crops, labor, etc., the farmers income would still be very limited.

The county agent from Brunswick County is supervisor on the Southside Soil Conservation District and therefore works closely with the district and with the county work unit in getting more soil conservation and water conservation on the land. The need is great as attest by the amount of soil in the creek channels and by the amount of erosion on the farms.

After the Small Watershed act was passed, the county agent as county soil conservation supervisor and with the help of soil conservation agencies and other agricultural workers through meetings and individual contacts took the information to the people in the areas of the county where it was felt that this program could be better applied. The area selected by this group of people was what was later called the Great Creek Watershed of Brunswick County. The problems of this area were flooding of low land because the soil from the farms above had gradually filled the channel of the creek so that it would not carry the water and so that the bottom land along the creek channel could not drain.

The major objective in working with the people in soil and water conservation and working with the people in the Great Creek Watershed area was to get this one phase of farm management in the form of conservation more than in the plans and minds of the people. The major objective in the Great Creek Watershed was to get soil and water conservation on the farms to stop flooding and to enable the draining of the valuable low land that had been dropped from agriculture production and let grow up. In this way the people would learn the value of this phase of good farm management and the people themselves through no aid or a limited amount of aid from the ACP program would learn the value of managing the farm to make it produce efficiently and at the same time preserve the natural resources.

This work was carried on through work with the Soil Conservation District and helping other supervisors to guide the work of this district. This, of course, being the overall phase of the conservation of the district. More specifically, the work on the watershed was done through leaders within the county and town of Lawrenceville. These leaders assisted in taking the information to the people in the area, in local meetings, and area wide meetings. Assistance in this program was given by the District Board of Supervisors, the County Board of Supervisors, agricultural workers, and leaders of the town.


T Y A F I L M A

To show the people the effectiveness of such a program, before and after pictures as well as pictures of other areas, were used in all meetings. Newspapers and business interests have been of great value.

The result of the overall program has been to get a group of people to understand that a good management job must be done on the farm if part of the resources of production are not to be wasted. The result of this project has not been as gratifying, however, as was hoped since the people are not as interested as they were in this phase of the conservation program. This lack of interest is probably due to the fact that as the program advances, the people in the area will be called on in the way of finances for the overall program.

The management problem of soil and water in the overall phase of the Extension program shows more results than this particular one in that it is attempted in all activities to carry out good farm management practices, including the management of soil and water as the other activities are carried through.

It is believed that this work can be strengthened by pointing out the improved income and by putting more emphasis on some of the farms that were very low in productivity and now are producing and producing more efficiently because of the addition of these management practices. This seems to be a problem that could be carried out more effectively on an individual basis rather than too much group work. It is not intended that the individual work should take the place of group meetings but it is easier and is more successful to work on an individual basis since each farm is an individual problem.

In-so-far as the watershed area is concerned, there is a lack of overall interest and it seems that this interest could better be built by planning on an individual basis, then showing the overall group what can be done through an intensified effort.

D. Dairying

Dairying in the county is one of the more specialized enterprises and like beef cattle is a comparatively new enterprise. We have at the present 45 Grade A dairies in the county, one being added in the last twelve months.

The main problems of our dairy industry, and the one needing the most emphasis, is a good breeding program to enable the dairymen to produce heifer replacements that would increase production. This is more true than ever since the price cost squeese is on the dairymen as well as other type farming. This situation is being brought to the dairymen through the artificial breeding association in the county.

Probably the other situation that needs the most emphasis is feeding and management of the dairy cow with an effort to get the small dairyman away from the production of grains and into using more forage crops.

Through the Artificial Breeding Association, an attempt was made to get more artificial bred cattle on the dairy farms in Brunswick County. The association held an annual meeting early in the year and the theme of the meeting was better breeding and better feeding. The remainder of the work done in this particular phase was through the artificial inseminator and personal contact as well as radio, newspapers, and TV.

Regular monthly meetings of the directors and officials of the association are held and timely information sent to dairymen in the county in this respect. The dairymen have been invited to attend these meetings and other meetings where pastures and hay crops, and general livestock feeding were discussed.

A field meeting where dairymen observed the grassland farming techniques and efficiency of other dairy farmers in the county was held.

Emphasis was put on the dairy breeding at our livestock show held in the county where dairymen showed all animals and particularly showed artificially bred animals. Some background of these artificially bred animals was given at the show.

Some of the results of the program in 1955 was an increase in the number of people using the artificial breeding services.

With more emphasis being placed on production of good forage crops, a number of dairymen who heretofore were not using silage have built silos either up-right or trench type and gone into a green forage crop feed plan. Some dairymen who have been attempting to grow grain are now buying the grain and growing more permanent and supplementary pastures.

As a result of the emphasis being put on supplementary pastures for winter and summer grazing, more and more dairymen are consentrating on the [illegible] seeding of supplementary pastures using them for hay and ensilage as well as grazing. This is especially true with the dairy man who is limited in acreage and is trying to increase his production on the small farms.

It seems that next year's work in dairying can be strengthened substantially if the dairymen in the county can be brought into an overall dairy club or association. This has been tried heretofore and has not met with a great deal of success. More tours will be tried in the coming years providing the weather is such that ideal growth can be had during the period that the tours should be held. For the past four years our weather conditions have been dry and our pastures have been very poor. Winter pasture tours and supplementary pasture tours are being planned.

E. Beef Cattle

There are approximately 6,500 head of beef cattle in Brunswick County. This is an increase of cattle but not the increase we have had in the past three or four years. The program on beef cattle in the county for this year has not been as extensive as heretofore. Main emphasis has been on culling, selecting better cattle, and selecting good sires.

It was felt that an increase of quality in cattle was needed since the price is usually, except for periods of scarcity, governed by quality more than quantity. It is felt that more cattle is needed but the major need is for a better quality of cattle as well.

Most of the work on beef cattle for this year has been done with individuals and advising them on selecting good herd sires. Part of the work was done through the Feeder Calf Sale which is an annual affair. Records are kept on this sale, that is, the way the individual farmers calves grade on the market, and these records are used to measure the progress of the individual herd.

One of the other major ways to get better cattle in the county was to show what good cattle are by our better producers showing their cattle in the county livestock show. This is an annual affair and is participated in by the civic organizations.

The results of the work and publicity given to the grades of animals have been more particular selecting by the producer and buying of better bred animals by those who are just going into the beef cattle business.

It seems that this project could be carried on another year in the same manner with the possibility of some farm tours in addition to the county livestock show and the publicity on the Feeder Sale. It also seems that if demonstrations were held in the county where more producers could see the grading of calves for the Feeder Sale, more farmers and more beefmen would get to know the quality of calves that would bring the best price on the market.

F. Poultry

Poultry is a very minor enterprise in the county, however, there is some need for diversification and a need in the county for better poultry producers as well as probably a few additional poultry producers. Major emphasis of work on poultry this year has been meetings of a nature outlined by a committee to get better poultry practices on the few poultry farms that are now established.

This work was carried out by having semi-annual meetings with all interested poultry producers and by individual farm visits with the use of specialists.

As a result of this work, better poultry practices have been put into effect by the producers and better culling by the owners of farm flocks.

Work along the same lines are to be intensified in 1956.

G. Other Projects

(1) Rural Life Institute

An annual Rural Life Institute was held in the county in October with the participation of ministers, a few laymen from the churches, and professional workers from all federal, state, and county agencies. These Rural Life Institutes are an effort to get all the agencies and churches to work more closely together to help guide the people to their needs and to give each a better understanding of what the other is doing.

(2) Master Farm Family

The county Extension personnel, through a committee of farm men and women, recommended an outstanding farm family for the Progressive Farmer and Extension Service Master Farm Family award. This award was presented to the W.W. Wesson family in the southern part of the county. The Ruritan Club and the Home Demonstration Club in that community participated in ceremonies when the plaque was presented. A tour of the farm and home was conducted by the Extension personnel in the county and the affair was attended by approximately 100 people.

(3) Social Security

The county agent sponsored a number of Social Security meetings for farmers in the county with a representative of the Social Security office participating. A number of these meetings were held and made possible by the Ruritan Clubs and Home Demonstration Clubs of the county. The meetings were very successful and if nothing more brought to the farmer the fact that Social Security was available, stimulated his thinking in regard to his own Social Security problems, and as evidence by the increased work by the Social Security office, was very successful.

V. 4-H Club Work

A. Junior Tobacco Show and Sales Contest

The Junior Tobacco Show and Sales Contest, sponsored by the tobacco associates and the Extension Service, is carried on in an effort to bring to the farmer, through 4-H clubs in a contest form, the advantages of marketing a better quality product. The needs are great in the tobacco industry for a more thoroughly processed product for the farmers market.

Through this contest people were able to see, and learn by seeing, correct methods of producing, handling, and selling tobacco.

This project was carried out through the individual 4-H club members who were supervised in the growing of tobacco from the time the seed were sown until it was bought on the warehouse floor. The individual members started with preparing the pland beds in the recommended ways, sampling the soil, using recommended fertilizer and amounts, using the best cultural practices, insect control methods, harvesting, curing, grading methods, and displaying on the warehouse floor.

The result of this project could easily be seen when the tobacco was displayed on the warehouse floor and the buyers paid from 5 to 8 cents a pound more for the tobacco because it was handled as it should have been, therefore putting the quality on the product the buyers want.

The project can be strengthened in 1956 by farm tours of adults as well as juniors to show in demonstrations the practices used by the club members.

B. National 4-H Club Week

A six-county celebration of National 4-H Club Week was held with Brunswick County as one of the six participating. This was held as an observance of National 4-H Club Week in the form of parades, Share the Fun programs, and newspaper participation.

The purpose of this activity was to publicize 4-H Clubs to the people in the county in an effort to get more participation and an increased interest in overall club work and club interest in the 4-H club program.

An attempt was made to get all 4-H club members and leaders working on one or two projects in connection with the parade and get participation in one overall 4-H club activity. Talent programs were held to select winners to participate in the Share the Fun program and each of the schools in the county having 4-H clubs participated in building and displaying a float with some project in the 4-H club as a theme.

The result of a program of this kind is to bring more club members and club leaders together, creating a spirit of competition, cooperation, and overall 4-H club interest. All these were improved by this activity in the county 4-H clubs.

C. 4-H Tractor Project

Unit 1 of the 4-H tractor project was carried on as a special club project with ten older boys participating in the project. This project was set up to give the older boys in the club who live on the farm a chance to learn more about the maintenance and operation of a tractor.

The project was carried out with the aid of local machinery dealers. Unit 1 started out with the basic problems in the maintenance and care of a tractor. The club members met out of school in the different farm machinery places in the county and received instructions with the aid of adult leaders furnished by the farm machinery people. All those interested in the county participated in this project.

The judging and prizes were done and given by the farm machinery people and the final judging done in cooperation with the Farm Family Festival program.

In the beginning a test of the boy's knowledge on caring for a tractor, simple repairs of a tractor, skill in driving, and safey in operation was given.

This project is to be carried on in the 1955-56 club year again with the aid of leaders and machinery dealers in the county. The Extension office is endeavoring at this time to interest one leader in going to VPI to take the course in tractor maintenance so that this leader can help with the project taking some of the work off the Extension Personnel.

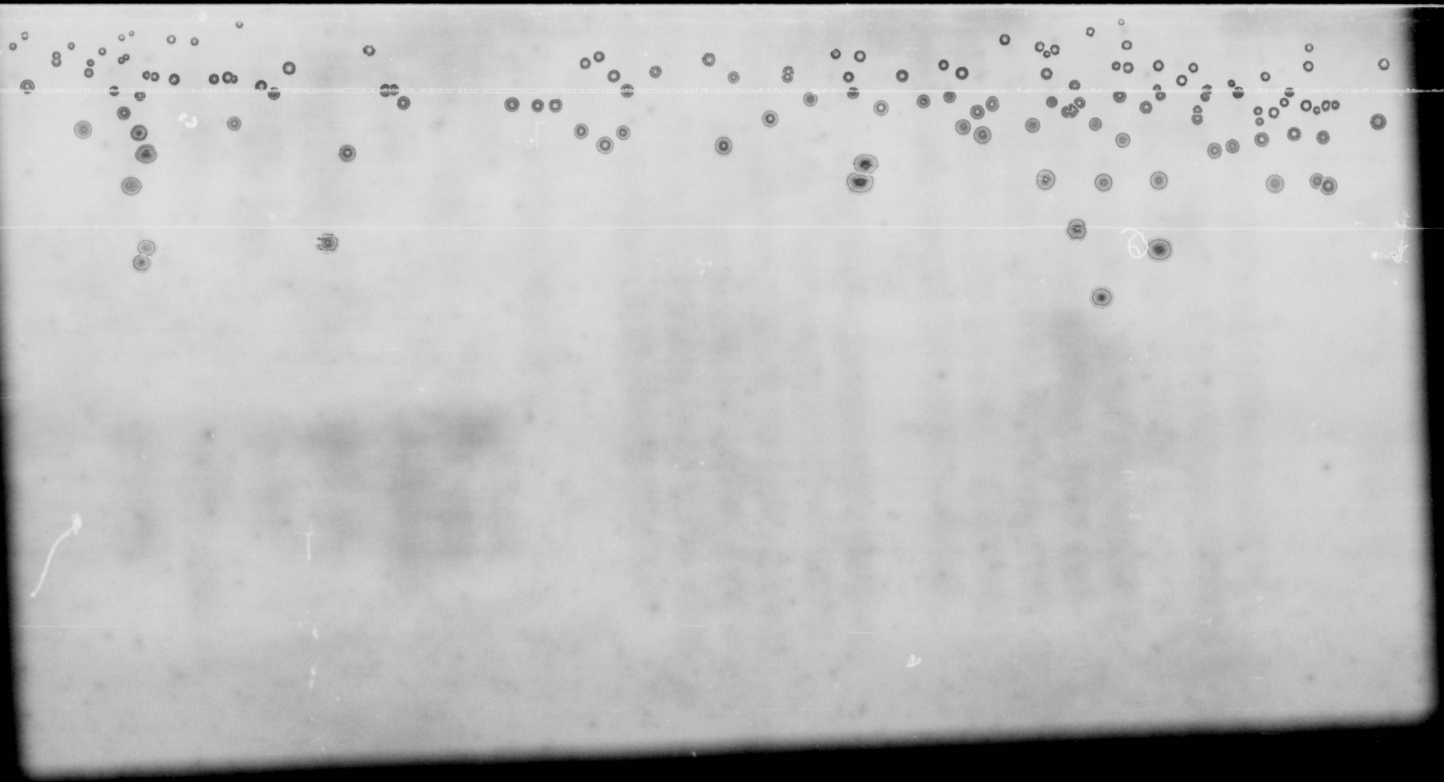
D. 4-H Swine Project

The special 4-H swine project is sponsored by Sears Roebuck & Co. Five gilts and one boar are given to good club members each year. This project is carried on the form of a pig chain.

There is a need forbetter meat type swine in the county and a need for better practices in growing swine. This club project is an effort to bring out some of the needs in swine and what to do about them.

Club members were taught feeding, caring, housing, and general management of swine from the pig through the sow and pig stage and the feeding out of marketable hogs.

Most of the members in thisspecial project learned the value of good management, good feeding practices, and care of the pig as well as the advantages of having a good pasture.



E. 4-H Farm and Home Electric Project

This project was carried on to give those boys and girls who live in town and urban parts of the county a chance to have a more active part in project work in the clubs, however all club members were eligible to take the project.

The objectives of this project were to teach the club members simple electrical repairs and the importance of electricity on the farm. The club members were taught to repair cords, lamps, to have good lighting in the home and simple outdoor lighting.

The project was carried out through a two day electric clinic in cooperation with the power suppliers in the county. Representatives of the three participating electric companies acted as leaders in the teaching of the project.

The results of the project were a more thorough understanding of the uses of electricity, the efficient use with correct wiring, correct lighting, and with the maintenance of equipment, cords, etc.

Next year this project can be strengthened tremendously by setting up some means of reaching more club members out in the county. This is especially hard since transportation is somewhat a problem.

F. Projects of Less Importance

Brunswick County's 4-H clubs participated in the Six-county parade and Share the Fun program in observance of National 4-H Club Week.

Several of the community 4-H club groups participated in the observance of National 4-H Club Sunday by attending church and taking parts on programs.

Twenty 4-H club members from all over the county attended a one week camp at 4-H Camp Farrar, Virginia Beach. Some of the things taught at this camp were citizenship, companionship, program planning, recreation, religious training, and handicraft. 4-H camp is another activity to help create and maintain interest in the overall county 4-H club program.

VI. Other Means of Reaching People

A. Radio, Newspaper, and TV

The County Extension Staff participated on weekly radio programs on two stations covering practically all the county. These programs cover 4-H work as well as adult work. The programs are adapted so as to bring to the people announcements of meetings, certain phases of the work taken up at the meetings and follow up work on these meetings and demonstrations.

Other agencies and professional workers are also assisted in their programs with these radio programs. Very little attempt is made to give specific recommendations on the radio but the main idea is to tell the people of new practices, of new bulletins, and where they might get any information.

The local newspaper is used somewhat the same way as the radio programs. The agent and the assistant, each have a weekly column in the paper where different announcements, names of new bulletins, etc. are listed. There has been added in the newspaper a farm page where special stories of what farmers are doing and special stories on different recommendations are given.

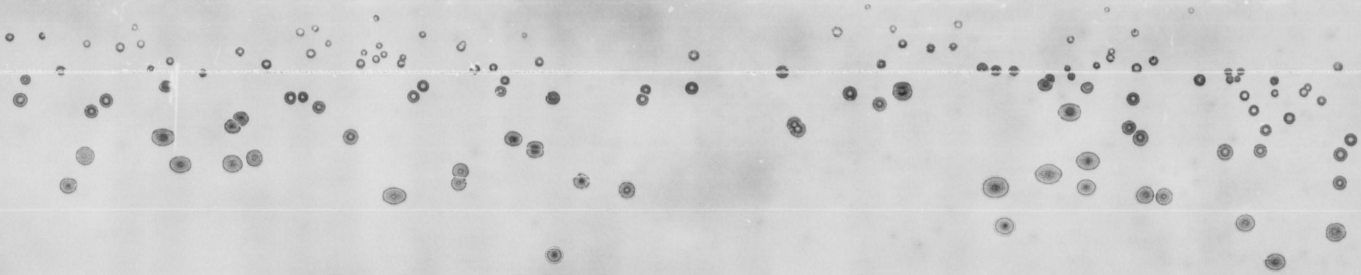
A new phase in reaching the people through public facilities is now being used, this being TV. Very little work in the past year has been done on television but its use is being planned more extensively the coming year. A new station has recently gone into operation which is near to the county and more convenient for the Extension staff of the county. Heretofore a station was so far away that we did not feel we could justify the time it took to prepare the program and to drive to the station, the nearest station at that time being approximately 80 miles.

B. County Pictures and Bulletin Boards

The extensive use of colored slides is being used in meetings in the county. The county Extension office has a camera and we are now taking pictures of special activities, good practices being carried out on the farms within the county in an effort to adapt our pictures to countyuse.

Along with the use of these slides and meetings, three business firms in the county purchased and gave to the county agent an automatic projector and viewer for display in different parts of the county. This viewer holds enough slides so that a story in the form of pictures can be told of any given project. For instance, if we wish to tell a story on forestry a series of slides can be set up in the projector, each slide being on the screen six seconds giving forestry practices from the setting of seedlings to the harvesting of the final cut.

Another idea in reaching the people was the use of bulletin boards and racks which were displayed in local stores. Nineteen of these bulletin boards and racks were given by local business people in the county. These are displayed in community stores where farmers tend to congregate in the evenings and on days of adverse weather. The bulletin board is used for announcements of meetings and timely information in leaflet form. The bulletin racks are used for displaying the latest and timely bulletins.



VII. Evaluation and Future Strengthening of Program

One of the most difficult tasks is that of getting farm people in the county to assist by serving and working on different committees. Some progress has been made on this work in an effort to tie the committees in and have a County Extension Service Board. This is a slow process and more consentrated effort will be put on it in the coming year.

The public relations between the county Extension office, the businesses and others have been built to where there is a good and wholesome relationship. This is evident by the support given the many different projects. For example, approximately $1800 has been given by these people for different phases of the work participated in directly by the Extension office.

Some phases of the work have been very gratifying in that participation was extremely good and the end results were up too, and in some cases above expectations.

Participation in group meetings is declining. This is evident in civic organizations as well as other types of group participation. I feel that one reason for this decline in group participation is the effort that has been made to get more information to the people in the form of leaflets, and letters, in the newspaper, on radio and TV. One other reason for the decline in participation is the fact that in the county as everyone says "There are too many meetings". The dispenseing of information in the ways mentioned above has stimulated somewhat the personal calls in the office and for outside help.

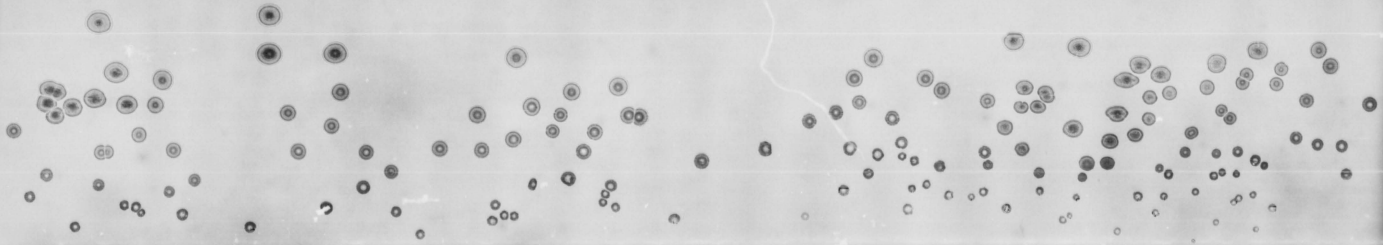
Additional meetings on management of the different farm enterprises were very successful during the past year. These seem to be more successful than on the farm tours and demonstrations. These meetings are usually held at night. They will be combined with on the farm demonstrations and used more extensively in the coming year.

VIII. Farm and Home Development Program

Brunswick County is not one of the pilot counties in this program and we have done very little work in this phase of Extension. The obstacles to this work have been three fold.

First, it was started when the county program was set up and going full force.

Second, it was started when the farm families were busiest and could not because of the amount of work participate in the program. We were told by families contacted to wait and come back in the fall.



The third obstacle was the loss of the home demonstration agent and part-time assistant agent, therefore throwing more work on the remaining staff. This additional work on the remaining staff was work that was started by, and when the full Extension Personnel was in the county and therefore had to be completed.

The farm and home development program will be started in December and worked as fast as possible.