

VI. Evaluation of the Year's Work

We feel that the Extension program has been stronger during 1959 than in any recent year.

We are convinced that a great portion of any success that may have been attained must go to other agencies, organizations, and individuals in the county which have cooperated so well throughout the year.

Probably the weakest part of our program was a lack of sound planning and using more commodity groups at the beginning of the year.

We look forward to the time when we will have an assistant home demonstration agent added to our staff. Also, we look forward to having a stronger leader program built up during the next year.

E. Forest Service

The Forest Service personnel out of the district office in Abingdon has been most cooperative in helping set up ACP programs and other forestry related programs and have been called on many times to assist with timber estimation on individual farms.

Forestry personnel as well as the TVA Forester worked with Extension foresters and agents in setting up two forestry demonstration plots in the county.

F. Local Banks, Merchants and Civic Organizations

The local banks, business firms, and civic organizations have taken an active part in sponsoring Extension work and particularly 4-H programs. The major project this year in which these people were involved was the 4-H Center drive which was very well received. The Russell County quota was exceeded early in the year due to the fine support that business and organizations afforded.

Bankers inform us as to the types of farm credit that are available which puts us in a better position to talk credit with farmers.

conservation and engineering practices through meetings, personal contacts, and mass media.

The year's program was planned by supervisors, professional workers and farmers organized by the agent.

The Soil Conservation Service technicians have showed very little interest in the soils program carried on this year but other cooperation has been good.

C. Farmers Home Administration

The local FHA supervisor has been assist@d with many farm management and loan situations throughout the year. Numerous farm building and house plans have been furnished this organization for farmers securing loans.

Farmers desiring loans have been given the facts on FHA loans whenever possible through personal contacts and news articles.

D. Vocational Agriculture Program

Extension--Vo-Ag relationship in Russell County is quite a desirable one. We cooperate together on many youth programs and projects as well as public service projects.

We have furnished all the Vo-Ag departments in Russell County with new bulletins and other needed teaching materials from time to time. In turn we use their classroom and shop facilities for farm meetings when needed.

The Castlewood Farmers Club, which is under the sponsorship of the Vo-Ag instructor is frequently visited and assistance with programs is afforded.

V. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

A. ASC County Office

The county agent, serving as ex-officer member of the County ASC Committee, attended practically all monthly meetings and many special meetings. Several of the district meetings were also attended. The portion of the program which was assisted most with was the ACP program. The agents did considerable education and promotion work on the ACP program as well as other programs throughout the year in meetings, personal contacts and through mass media.

Much of the success of the county agronomy program must be attributed to the ACP program which was very effective and far-reaching.

The demand for ACP was even greater than in 1958. The \$85,999 allocation was not nearly sufficient to cover the requests. 639 farms applied 700 practices. This is a significant increase over last year.

Working relations with this agency on all programs have always been excellent.

B. Soil Conservation Service

The agent has served as secretary on the Clinch Valley Soil Conservation board of supervisors during the year 1959 and has attended practically all monthly and special meetings.

The agent has served on the county group in making the conservation needs estimate for Russell County.

The agents have done considerable education work on soil

F. Forestry

More forest establishment and better forest management are two distinct needs in our county forestry program. 3,000 seedlings were set out by 4-H boys in the spring.

Two demonstration woodland areas were set up on farms in the county this year.

State Foresters have been requested for many farmers for timber estimation and marking.

The ASC Committee and state foresters were worked with closely in taking tree orders and encouraging farmers to carry out improved forestry practices.

G. Cooperatives

The cooperative organization we work most closely with is the Russell County Cooperative which is a buyers and sellers coop and is owned and controlled by Russell County Farmers.

The agents work especially close with management of the coop in marketing lambs and wool.

Approximately 95% of the wool and 50-60% of the lambs in the county are marketed cooperatively through this set-up. Russell County wool sold for \$52.55 per hundred this year which was the highest price in Southwest Virginia. Lambs consistently net the farmer more money because of less selling cost.

The agent keeps in close contact with the Virginia Burley Tobacco Association and endeavors to keep farmers informed on actions taken which will affect the marketing of their tobacco crops.

News articles in the local paper were used to disseminate information.

D. Horticulture and Vegetables

Although there are some fifty-five farmers in Russell County engaged in the production of fruits and thirty engaged in commercial vegetable production, the income obtained in most cases is strictly supplemental. There is only one commercial orchard in the county.

This year we have furnished outlook information and the latest recommendations on insecticides, etc.

E. Russell County Fair

The Russell County Fair is a county-wide project to which the Extension staff devotes considerable time and planning.

The Russell County Fair Association is made up of farmers and businessmen and has been a very successful governing body. A local civic club participates also in the actual sponsorship of the annual event.

The county agent serves as secretary and advisor to the board of directors. The fair is certainly one of our best educational tools.

Some of the highlights of our very successful fair this year were a 4-H and FFA livestock judging contest, a sixty-animal dairy show, a ninety animal beef cattle show, strong sheep and swine and draft horse shows.

The \$900 net to the association will be invested ~~XXXXXX~~ back into permanent type improvements.

ACP available 140 tons of TVA material was used in 1959. TVA demonstration work made fairly good progress during 1959 but should have received more personal attention from the agents if time had permitted.

B. Farm Buildings

We feel that this phase of our Extension program is a minor one but a very important one.

A supply of building plans were kept on hand at all times. This fact was publicized and a good many were dispersed.

Dan Kite was called upon to assist with some individual problems.

The Russell County Cooperative was assisted with plans for the new lamb market which is under construction.

We estimate that some thirty to forty new silos were built this year.

All ag-engineering requests relating to soil and water were transferred to the Soil Conservation Service technicians.

C. Poultry

Most poultry in the county is for farm use. However, a sizeable number of farms produce eggs on a small scale to sell locally.

All egg producers have been given up-to-date recommendations and newsletters from VFI.

One producer increased layers from 500 to 2,500 and installed modern housing and feeding facilities. He was aided with plans and feeding information.

Many farm visits were made in the spring and summer for the purpose of disease control and general management.

IV. MINOR PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. TVA-- Extension

There are eighteen TVA test demonstration farms in Russell County which are very effectively used as result demonstrations. These farmers have been worked with in detail on recommended practices and farm records. The following activities were carried out in 1959.

1. An annual dinner meeting was held for demonstrators and wives in January. A program on soils was presented by G. R. Epperson.
2. The Southwest Virginia Agricultural Association annual meeting was attended by a good number of demonstrators.
3. Two demonstrators attended the annual meeting of test demonstration farm families at Muscle Shoals in July.
4. Since the quota of test demonstration material has been cut for 1960, no more demonstration farms were added.
5. Sixteen demonstrators completed farm records for 1958 and each was worked with individually on analysis. Two farms were set up on the new VPI machine records.
6. The TVA demonstrators association donated \$300 toward the construction of the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center. A donation was also made to the home demonstration clubs to cover expenses of having yearbooks printed.
7. Two youth delegates were sent to the Youth Development Camp at Fontana, North Carolina.
8. The TVA demonstrators were urged to make use of all

in particular.

4. The public school officials are most cooperative in working with the 4-H program. Again this year more pressure is being felt in working with high school groups.

Generally time is very limited for senior meetings, and in some of the schools high school students can belong to only one club which takes out some of the best older members. Some of these problems are going to have to be met with more out of school meetings.

In the grades, many of the teachers are interested in the 4-H program and help with it.

been \$1,203.24 given by the 4-H members for this project. The money was raised by various and sundry means. The sale of dish rags and paring knives were two of the biggest items in raising the money. Response was good and nearly every club met its quota within six months.

D. General 4-H

1. One of the biggest undertakings of the County Extension personnel and the county was the raising of our quota of the money for the new Southwest Virginia 4-H Center. Organization of the County Solicitation Committee was started in December, 1958. The drive for money was held in January and March of 1959.

The county was divided into districts with a district or community chairman in each district. Each district chairman got workers to do the solicitation. Each solicitor had about ten people to see. There were separate big gift and organization committees. The drive functioned smoothly with \$9,725.38 being collected to date which includes money given by 4-H members. There ^{is} ~~was~~ another \$1,235 in pledges or a total of \$10,960.38 raised by Russell County. Russell County's quota was \$8,653.

2. Civic organizations, county banks and numerous business organizations have been most cooperative in financing 4-H activities during the year.

3. The county Vo-Ag teachers have been most cooperative with 4-H work during the year. Vo-Ag teachers have helped with the baby beef projects, market hog projects, and county fair projects

Carlton and Ruby were chosen because of their outstanding project work and leadership. The Copper Creek club won the plaque for being the most outstanding junior club in the county. The Lebanon eighth club received the plaque for being the most outstanding senior club. Achievement medals were awarded to members doing the best work in individual projects.

As was previously stated the 1959 Achievement Day Program will be held in January in conjunction with a tour to the new electric plant at Carbo.

C. Other Activities

1. All Star Activities

- a. Carlton Pratt and Paul Vencille, Jr., became All Stars in 1959.
- b. The Russell County All Stars and their parents took part in the All Star Recognition Banquet held at the Martha Washington Inn in Abingdon during August.

2. Tractor Maintenance School

A tractor maintenance school was held one night each week for eight weeks during February and March of 1959. Twelve boys completed this project.

A tractor driving contest was held in April to determine Russell County's contestant in the District Contest. Only boys enrolled in the tractor school could compete in the contest.

3. Southwest Virginia 4-H Center

The 4-H members in the county pledged \$1.00 per member or \$1,088 for the new Southwest Virginia 4-H Center. There has been

18. Send Delegates to TVA Resource Development Camp

One boy and one girl represented Russell County at Resource Development Camp at Fondana Dam, North Carolina in June. Sherman Wallace, Jr. represented the Russell County 4-H boys.

19. Send delegates to Forestry Camp

Russell County had no delegates to attend Forestry Camp this year.

20. Send delegates to State Electric Congress

Roy Stanford Robertson, III represented the Russell County 4-H boys at Electric Congress in August. Stanny had been doing some good electrical work and since attending Electric Congress has partially wired a dairy barn.

21. Participate in Rural Life Sunday.

Very little was done in observance of Rural Life Sunday. Publicity was printed in the local paper and members were reminded in club meetings. A letter was written to Rural Ministers asking them to arrange their service around Rural living.

22. Participate in National 4-H Club Work

The local newspaper printed a page on 4-H activities. Pictures and mats from the state 4-H office were also used on this page. National 4-H work was stressed in 4-H meetings the month before.

23. Have a 4-H Achievement Program

The 4-H Achievement Program was held December 11, 1958, in the Lebanon High School Auditorium. Carlton Pratt ~~manager~~ and Ruby Campbell were crowned 4-H king and queen at this program.

The fall county council meeting was held on November 21, 1959. Fifty-four members of the council attended this meeting. The program included reviewing last year's objectives and accomplishments, setting up objectives for 1960, plans for the County Achievement Day, and training of officers.

The Achievement Day Program will be held some Saturday in January in conjunction with a tour by 4-H members and parents to the new electric plant at Carbo. One of the new objectives set forth by the council is to organize an Honor Club in Russell County.

15. Have Maximum Participation in 4-H Short Course.

Six 4-H Boys and one leader plus the Assistant Agent attended Short Course in Blacksburg. Three of the boys participated on the Land Appreciation Team. The other three represented the county and two of the three became All Stars. The leader was D. C. Pratt who was an officer in the 4-H Leaders' organization.

16. Have Maximum Participation in 4-H Camp

Only eight boys attended senior 4-H Camp at Camp Clyde Austin, Greenville, Tennessee. Fourteen boys attended junior camp at V. I. Ranch Camp, Bristol, in August. Camp participation is expected to increase next year at the new Southwest Virginia 4-H Center. Particularly if senior camp can be set during a week that the boys will not have so much farm work to do.

17. Send delegates to Conservation Camp

Two 4-H members and a leader from Russell County attended Conservation Camp at Virginia Beach.

Four 4-H members fed sixteen lambs. These lambs were shown at Tazewell, Bland, and Russell County Fairs and at the Atlantic Rural Exposition in Richmond. At Richmond Russell County lambs placed first and third in the Hampshire singles and Grand Champion Pen of Hampshires. A pen of Crossbreeds placed second in their class. Ten of the lambs were purebred Hampshire and were kept for replacements and the remainder of the lambs were sold at Richmond.

11. Have members enter Achievement Record in State Contests

A meat animal record and a leadership record was entered in the state contest. No records had been submitted by Russell County boys for several years. It is hoped that two or three records will be submitted next year.

12. Participate in the County Fair with Educational Booths and Project Exhibits

Six 4-H educational booths were erected by 4-H members at the Russell County Fair. 4-H boys helped with five of these booths. About 45 animals were exhibited by 4-H members at the Fair and 35 crop exhibits were made by 4-H boys.

A 4-H and FFA livestock judging contest was participated in by three FFA teams and one 4-H team. The 4-H team placed second in this contest.

13. Have a "Share-the-Fun" Talent Show

A "Share-the-Fun" Talent Show was sponsored by the county 4-H council. Twenty five clubs participated. Forty-five dollars were cleared by the council on this project.

14. Have at least two meetings of the County 4-H Council

b. Continue Sears-Roebuck Pig Chain

About as much interest is shown in this project as any in the county. In 1958 the five gilts were placed in the Belfast area with four boys and 1 girl. Four of these sows were still in production with one being lost with breeding trouble. The best pig out of last spring's litters were placed with five boys in the Lebanon area. These gilts were bred around November 1 to the new boar which was purchased at the State Fair. This boar was the Grand Champion Junior and Reserve Grand Champion Hampshire at the Atlantic Rural Exposition in October.

9. Dairy Projects

Four registered Guernsey heifers were purchased by County 4-Hers in April. These animals plus others were shown at three different shows. Several 4-H members are interested in purchasing registered heifers when they become available. A dairy fitting and showing school was held in July with ten members and several parents participating. One heifer was taken to Richmond for the State Dairy Show. There were thirty-five dairy projects in the 1958-59 4-H club enrollment.

10. Sheep Projects

a. Farn Flock Projects

Sixteen boys carried this project for the 1958-59 year. Four Russell County members took thirty-five lambs to the Tazewell County Junior Market Lamb Show held on June 15, 1959. The Reserve Champion pen and the Reserve Champion Individual was won by a Russell County member.

b. Market Lamb Projects

7. Continue participation in the Baby Beef project

Eleven baby beeves were fed by 4-H members last year.

a. Have a tour of Baby Beef Projects

A tour was held on January 2, 1959, which was during the Christmas vacation. All of the 4-H and FFA boys and girls who were feeding calves participated in the tour. All of the calves were visited that day so that the members could exchange ideas on feeding and management of their calves.

b. Have a county Baby Beef Show

The county Baby Beef Show, sponsored by the Lebanon Jaycees, was held on April 4, 1959, at the Lebanon Fairgrounds. Carolyn Combs of Honaker had the Grand Champion with her Angus Steer. A large crowd of local people attended the show.

c. Continue participation in the Bristol Show

The eleven steers were taken to Bristol. Ten of the eleven graded choice or above. Carolyn Combs had Reserve Champion Angus in the show. Local buyers supported the project making the Russell County steers bring 2 - 3¢ more than the sale average.

8. Hog Projects

a. Continue participation in the Bristol Market Hog Show & Sale

Only eleven fat hogs were shown at the Bristol Market Fat Hog Show and Sale from Russell County. A boy from Castlewood who holds membership in both 4-H and FFA had the Grand Champion pen of three. More interest is being shown for next year. Several members have bred sows to pig around March 1 so as to have pigs for next year's show.

3. Have at least 90% project completion.

There were 1,185 projects carried by 543 club members under the supervision of the assistant agent.

512 members completed one or more projects.

346 completed all of the projects they were carrying.

A total of 819 projects or 69.1 % of the projects were completed. This is again over last year but still low. Much of this increase can be attributed to junior leaders encouraging and helping members complete their record books.

4. Train a livestock judging team.

A livestock judging team was trained by the County Agent. The team was composed of members with no judging experience and placed only fifth in the District Contest held on May 16, 1959.

5. Train a dairy judging team

A dairy judging team was trained by the Assistant County Agent and competed in the District Contest placing fourth. Members of the team lived in four different sections of the county and were not able to get together as often as they would have liked, to practice.

6. Train a land appreciation team

A land appreciation team was trained by the County Agent and the Assistant County Agent. A total of seven boys worked on the team until the final day of practice. Four of the best boys were selected to participate in the District Contest. The team won first in the District Contest and placed third in the state contest at Blacksburg. Much interest was shown last year and more is expected for the coming year.

half of the county 4-H members live on farms. The remainder live in small towns and villages and carry projects such as electricity and garden and safety. The addition of non-farm boys adds more depth to the program. Many of the good leaders which develop are non-farm boys.

There were 326 boys enrolled in electric projects. Safety was second in numbers with 231 and was followed by garden with 151. Swine, entomology, forestry, dairy, and sheep followed in that order in number of members enrolled.

All Stars and the county council are active in planning and carrying the over-all program. An effort is being made to develop a junior leadership program which will make 4-H work more effective.

B. Results of Goals and Objectives.

1. Continue operation of all 28 clubs

Twenty-seven clubs were organized and carried to completion during the 1958-59 school year. There was not enough interest last year for an older boys' club to be conducted as in the past but it has been organized for the 1959-60 school year with twelve members. These are older 4-Her's who primarily are farm boys interested in agriculture and doing contest work and showing.

2. Have a planned program with members participating at each meeting.

The vice-presidents are in charge of the programs. Generally they plan a ten to fifteen minute program at each meeting which includes a devotion, a report on a 4-H event, a song and a game. Training was given at the County Council meeting on conducting a program.

E. 4-H Club Program

A. Situation

There are twenty-seven boys' 4-H clubs in the county with a total enrollment of 543 boys. Twenty-four of these clubs are combination clubs with both boys and girls in the club and with the home demonstration agent giving project instruction to the girls. Three of the twenty-seven clubs are conducted by the assistant agent and include both boys and girls. There are thirty-five girls enrolled in these three clubs. The majority of these thirty-five girls are enrolled in either garden, safety or electricity.

All of these clubs meet in school. This year it was decided to offer a choice of group projects for them to carry for part of the school year. Electricity, safety, and soil and water conservation were offered as choices. The electricity project was outlined to carry throughout the school year with major emphasis being placed on improvement or development of a good home study center using the correct lighting. The safety project was designed to be carried four months and was centered around correcting safety hazards in the home and on the farm. At the end of four months instruction was given on agricultural subjects. The soil and water conservation was outlined more on the basis of a soils project and was carried out on the same schedule as the safety project. Only one club enrolled in the soil and water conservation project. Fourteen clubs enrolled in the electricity project and twelve in the safety.

In addition to the group project each individual member was required to take at least one other project. Approximately one

were set up as sample intake stations. These dealers and the vo-ag instructors were loaned soil sampling tubes and augers.

As a result 298 farmers took 624 samples compared to 172 farmers with 341 samples in 1956.

Eleven soil type monoliths were taken in the county for educational use.

A 4-H land appreciation team was coached. This team won the district contest and placed third in state competition. The agent attended the soils school at Marion in July.

3. Burley Tobacco

Tobacco is always a major agronomic project because of its importance as a crop and an income producer.

Information on varieties and fertilization/made available to all farmers. Some TVA demonstrators were given seeds of new varieties to grow as demonstrations.

Chemical weed control demonstrations were assisted with on four farms.

A large percentage of the soil samples taken in the county were for Burley tobacco recommendations.

Two very successful tobacco grading demonstrations were held in the county in October.

All farmers were mailed information on correct handling of burley tobacco in readying it for market.

These were very effective.

Results reported on the twelve-months feed supply were as follows:

- a. 1,150 acres of alfalfa seeded.
- b. 2,000 acres alfalfa topdressed.
- c. 375 acres of pasture seeded.
- d. 3,400 acres of pasture topdressed.
- e. 2,000 acres of winter pasture seeded.
- f. 200 acres of millet and sudan seeded.
- g. 4,400 acres of red clover seeded.
- h. 300 acres of lespedeza seeded.
- i. Silage → 15% of farmers made corn silage.
 3 - 5% of farmers made grass silage.

These figures show some increase over last year.

An agronomy meeting was held in Lebanon in late winter. Several farmers and professional workers attended.

Special demonstrations were conducted on the farms of eighteen TVA test demonstrators.

Some research and demonstration work is being done with birds-foot trefoil in the county.

Much personal contact and visitation work was done on the silage program. Silage tonnage increased at least 10% this year.

Numerous news articles on agronomy were written which kept up the interest in doing a better job.

2. Soils Program.

Because farmers are poorly informed on soils for the most part, an intensified soils education program was set up this year.

Three meetings to organize and inform professional workers and leading farmers and plant food dealers were held.

Soil sampling was worked on extensively. Soil sampling information was mailed to every farmer. Three fertilizer dealers

The testing program that was anticipated did not get to Russell County; however, publicity of all kinds has been used to encourage farmers to test cows and vaccinate heifers. Numbers of heifers vaccinated is up considerably over any other previous year.

Since rabies was a problem this year, a considerable amount of educational work was done.

D. Agronomy

1. Feed Supply

Adequate feed supply is the most important phase of agronomy in Russell County since livestock is the big income producer. The main needs are more silage, more alfalfa, more and better pasture, and an increase in the use of lime and fertilizer.

The goals and objectives set up in January were as follows:

- (1). To increase corn and grass silage by 20%.
- (2). To increase alfalfa acreage by 1,000 acres.
- (3). To put out alfalfa topdressing demonstrations.
- (4). To encourage farmers to seed more permanent type forage crops and to fertilize all crops and pasture more heavily.
- (5). To enter twelve months forage program.

In obtaining what we term a fairly satisfactory job in terms of results we have worked closely with ASC's ACP program and the Clinch Valley Soil Conservation District in getting farmers to make field use of government funds and technical aid available.

An agronomy letter giving recommended varieties of seed and analysis and rates of fertilizers to use was mailed to all farmers in late winter.

Two alfalfa fertilization demonstration plots were set up with the help of VPI specialists.

The association has grown significantly this year due to publicity and good result demonstrations. News articles and other publicity have been used along with continuous personal contacts and visits.

An annual meeting was held for members in January.

The association gave a trophy to the best artificially bred heifer at the Russell County Fair this year.

The number of first services this year was 540 compared to 368 in 1958. This is a 46.7% increase.

3. Other

The agents aided many farmers in the selection of top quality replacement heifers and cows with D.H.I.A. records.

Feeding information has been made available through letters, news articles, and personal contacts. Feeding is being done according to production where production records are being kept.

The mastitis control program has not really gotten under way yet. News articles on mastitis have been written and many farmers have been aided with control. An intensified program has been planned.

One herd owner was assisted with the sale of his herd.

C. Livestock Health

Planning on this project was aimed mostly at bangs eradication in the county.

The two objectives were to get cows tested under the federal program and to get heifer calves vaccinated with Strain 19.

(5) To get 500 cows bred artificially.

1. Records

a. D.H.I.A.

There are thirteen herds and 600 cows on official D.H.I.A. testing at the present time. We have enrolled two new farms on D.H.I.A. during the year but have lost two herds.

An annual analysis meeting was held in January. Prior to the meeting, each member was worked with individually on his herd analysis.

The agent and assistant agent have worked closely with the board of directors and the supervisor this year in carrying out the testing work. The agent serves as secretary.

Each month's results have been published in the local paper.

b. Other Testing Programs

The weigh-a-day-a-month and owner-sampler programs were publicized through mass media, personal contact, and in meetings. Four Grade C producers are now on the owner sampler program. More expansion is anticipated.

2. Artificial Breeding

The Russell County Artificial Breeders Association which is affiliated with the Virginia Artificial Breeders Association handles the artificial insemination of dairy cattle in the county.

The purebred ram sales were assisted with and many farmers were aided in the selection of rams.

Other activities include 4-H farm flock project work and sheep shearing instruction with 4-H boys.

4. Hogs

There are relatively few hogs produced in Russell County other than for home use. Many farmers, however, produce feeder pigs. The fact that these pigs are generally of low quality makes them difficult to sell. The quality problem is the major one.

The Sears 4-H Pig Chain is doing more for hog quality than any other one thing. This was the third year of operation. A young boar for the chain was bought this year that is by a certified meat sire and a certified litter. He was also reserve grand champion Hampshire boar at the Atlantic Rural Exposition. He is being used by hog producers in the county as well as by pig chain members.

Numerous farmers have been assisted in the selection of young boars and gilts of correct meat-type.

B. Dairying

With 23 Grade A dairies and some 600 Grade C producers in the county, dairying is becoming more important each year.

Goals and objectives set up were as follows:

- (1). To get four new Grade A herds on DHIA and six Grade C herds on owner-sampler.
- (2). Help farmers locate good replacement heifers.
- (3). To decrease incidence of mastitis.
- (4). To work toward better feeding and greater efficiency in feeding.

- (2). Run a dipping program with the portable vat.
- (3). Aid farmers in constructing foot bath vats for control of foot rot and get out foot rot educational material.
- (4). Work with Tazewell Ewe Sale Committee and help farmers secure western replacement ewes.
- (5). To work with wool pool committee and lamb marketing coop.
- (6). Aid farmers to select top quality registered rams.

The Blackford lamb market was assisted with throughout the season. Some 9,000 lambs were marketed at Blackford which grossed \$155,000 for Russell County Farmers. Through the use of mass media and on-the-farm demonstrations 10% more buck lambs were castrated than in former years. More work still needs to be done on this.

The wool pool committee was assisted in selling and taking up the wool pool. 99,969 pounds of wool worth \$49,906.21 was marketed. This is a small increase.

There were 870 ewes market^d at the Tazewell Ewe Sale of which 150 came back to Russell County. 450 western ewes were brought into the county this year. The agent took orders and helped secure these ewes.

Several farmers were assisted with the construction of foot bath vats on their farms. These were used in demonstrations. George Allen, VPI Sheep Specialist, assisted with this project. Information on foot rot control was made available to all farmers.

The portable dipping vat was made available for use in control of sheep scab and other external parasites. Numerous news articles on parasite control were written. Many personal contacts and visits were made also.

program was publicised through newspapers, letters, and personal contacts as well as in a meeting of feeder calf producers.

Demonstrations using diethyl-stilbestrol implants on yearling steers were conducted on four farms. Results were very good. This practice will be more widely publicized in 1960.

Several news articles and other educational methods were used to encourage farmers to rid cattle of external and internal parasites.

Farmers were aided in the selection of about twenty performance tested bulls. Many others were personally assisted in the selection of bulls at sales and privately.

Two timely news articles were written on winter feeding. Many farmers were assisted personally in working out rations for steers and cows.

3. Sheep

Sheep are a major livestock enterprise in Russell County and for that reason have received considerable attention.

Recognized problem areas in the production of sheep are lack of top quality replacement ewes, the presence of footrot, and external and internal parasites on a large practice of marketing buck lambs which are sold at a discount. Dogs are also a great problem and one that is hard to control. Objectives set up were as follows:

- (1). To get a better job of marketing done and strive to get 90% of buck lambs castrated.

sales in 1960 have been made.

Three Abingdon steer sales were worked with closely although they are not under State Committee sponsorship.

Russell County producers marketed around 3,000 steers in sales. The agent worked with farmers in educating them on the advantages of sales. Also, considerable publicity work on sale dates and numbers offered was expended through newspaper media.

Throughout the selling season the agents assisted farmers with sales at private treaty by locating and informing buyers.

A successful feeder calf and breeding heifer show was again held at the Russell County Fair this year.

The agent and two producers attended the state Feeder Cattle Sales meeting at Natural Bridge, Virginia, in February.

2. Increase Beef Cattle Efficiency

Because efficiency along with marketing is of utmost importance if greatest profits are to be realized, the following goals and objectives were set up to work toward increased efficiency:

- (1). To get three new herds on BCIA program.
- (2). To demonstrate the use of diethyl-stilbestrol on at least five farms.
- (3). Demonstrations and education work on parasite control to be carried out.
- (4). Aid farmers to select rapid gaining registered bulls.
- (5). To aid farmers in doing a better job of feeding beef cattle.

Only one herd was started on the BCIA program during the year but several are lined up to begin in 1960. This

III. Major Project Activities

A. Livestock

1. Feeder Calf and Yearling Sales

Russell County producers annually sell from 1/3 to 1/2 of the calves in the Abingdon Feeder Calf Sale and a significantly large percentage of the yearling steers in the three Abingdon Steer Sales. With the large number of beef cattle in the county, marketing receives a good portion of Extension attention.

Goals and objectives set up were as follows:

- (1). To get more calves consigned.
- (2). To encourage strict adherence to the rules and regulations of the sale.
- (3). To handle calf consignments.
- (4). To help Angus producers set up sale or pool.
- (5). To work closely with steer producers and the livestock market.

There were 761 calves sold in the Abingdon Feeder Calf Sale. This is an increase of 130 over 1958.

A copy of the sale Rules & Regulations was sent to all feeder calf producers.

A meeting was held for feeder calf producers. Thirty producers were present.

Several producers were visited and the cattle were inspected on the farm.

Consignments were handled through the County Agent's Office.

An attempt to organize an Angus Feeder Calf Sale at Abingdon was made. Since only 300 calves could be gotten for such a sale, plans were dropped. Definite plans for an Angus

One technician, who operates a small Grade A dairy herd of his own has been able to handle the entire work load. Interest among Grade A and Grade C producers has mounted significantly during the last year.

F. Russell County Feeder Calf Association

This organization of beef calf producers is part of the Abingdon Feeder Calf Sale Association. One producer from Russell County serves as a member of the four-county Abingdon Calf Sale Committee.

Some 900 calves were consigned through this organization this year.

G. Russell County Dairymen's Association

This organization is made up of Grade A milk producers largely. This group meets not regularly, but whenever necessary to iron out production or marketing problems that arise. They also act cooperatively in purchasing equipment that affects them all. The agent acts as advisor to this group.

H. Russell County Dairy Herd Improvement Association

The association has been in operation since May, 1957, and has served a very definite need for Grade A and some Grade C dairymen. The county agent serves as secretary.

I. Russell County TVA Test Demonstration Association

This organization is made up of present and past TVA unit test demonstration farmers. Five directors are elected each year at the annual meeting of the demonstrators. They serve as a guiding body, and aid in the selection and approval of new demonstrators. This group aids the agents in the planning and operation of the year's test demonstration program. The directors also administrate the expenditure of the TVA funds.

The marketing phase of the cooperative consists of marketing lambs and wool for the farmers of Russell County. A new lamb marketing facility is being built on local property acquired during the past year.

C. Russell County Fair Association

The Russell County Fair Association is an incorporated organization composed of farmers and homemakers in Russell County who are interested in public affairs and the betterment of agriculture and home economics. The county Fair is an annual affair.

The county agent serves as secretary and advisor to the Fair Association's Board of Directors. All the members of the Extension staff serve as advisors and coordinators.

D. Clinch Valley Soil Conservation District

The Clinch Valley Soil Conservation District, formed in 1952 through the efforts of the Extension agents and interested farmers, covers Russell County only. The district has a full time technician and aide to assist farmers with their conservation problems. The agents work closely with these SCS employees and the district board on the increasing conservation work load.

The agent serves as appointed member of the District Board of Supervisors and also as secretary.

E. Russell County Artificial Breeders Association

This organization of dairymen is increasing greatly in size and strength and is set-up to aid farmers in increasing quality in dairy cattle through artificial insemination. This association is associated with the Virginia Artificial Breeding Stud at Rocky Mount.

origin and are for the most part, heavy textured soils. This means that most soils respond well to good management and great improvement is noted when fertilizer and lime are correctly and adequately used.

The topography, being rather rugged, makes cropland scarce. There are roughly three acres of pasture per acre of cropland. Most of the cropland is in the production of hay and other roughage. Less grain is produced each year and therefore, considerable concentrates for dairy cows, sheep, and poultry are purchased.

II. County Agricultural Organizations

A. Extension Staff

The Russell County Extension staff has been stable as far as personnel is concerned this year for the first time in several years. A. L. Eller, Jr., County Agent, Michael G. Altizer, Assistant County Agent, Mary Virginia Fletcher, Home Agent, and Aline Breeding, Secretary compose the staff. All have worked the entire year.

This organization has functioned smoothly.

The offices have been moved from the Campbell Building to the newly renovated County Courthouse.

B. Russell County Cooperative

This cooperative is owned and operated by Russell County farmers and serves as a buying cooperative and a marketing cooperative. Two retail farm supply stores are maintained, one in Lebanon and one in Honaker.

I. Type of Agriculture

Russell County has always been one of the most completely agricultural counties in Southwest Virginia since, until recently, there was practically no industry in the county. However, with the recent expansion of the coal business and the construction of an electric power plant and a garment factory more and more rural farm people are finding full-time and part-time work off the farm. This trend has naturally shown up as improved living standards and more part-time farmers. Farm labor, however, is becoming acutely scarce.

Land in farms totals 254,234 acres which is 82 per cent of the county's total area. There are 2,355 farms which average 108 acres in size according to the last census. The trend is going toward fewer farms and more acreage per farm.

Agriculturally speaking, Russell County, due to the topography of the land and the soils, is largely a livestock producing county having a livestock population of 32,000 cattle, 24,000 sheep, and 4,600 hogs. Dairying has been expanded quite considerably during the last few years. About one-third of the cattle in the county are of dairy breeding.

Next to livestock, burley tobacco, which is grown on about 90% of the farms brings in more farm income than any other farm commodity. Russell County ranks fourth in burley tobacco production in Virginia.

Russell County soils are almost strictly of a limestone

year's test demonstration program. The directors also administrate

TABLE OF CONTENTS, CONT.

	Page No.
G. Cooperatives	29
V. Cooperation with Other Agencies	
A. ASC County Office	20
B. Soil Conservation Service	30-31
C. Farmers Home Administration	31
D. Vocational Agricultural Program	31
E. Forest Service	32
F. Local Banks, Merchants, & Civic Organizations ...	32
VI. Evaluation of the Year's Work	33

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Cover and Title Page	
Table of Contents	
I. Type of Agriculture	1-2
II. County Agricultural Organizations	2-4
III. Major Project Activities	
A. Livestock	
1. Feeder Calf & Yearling Sales	5-6
2. Increase Beef Cattle Efficiency	6-7
3. Sheep	7-9
4. Hogs	9
B. Dairying	
1. Records	
a. D.H.I.A.	10
b. Other Testing Programs	10
2. Artificial Breeding	10-11
3. Other	11
C. Livestock Health	11-12
D. Agronomy	
1. Feed Supply	12-13
2. Soils Program	13-14
3. Burley Tobacco	14
E. 4-H Club Program	
1. Situation	15-16
2. Results of Goals & Objectives	16-23
3. Other Activities	23-24
4. General 4-H	24-25
IV. Minor Project Activities	
A. TVA -- Extension	26-27
B. Farm Buildings	27
C. Poultry	27-28
D. Horticulture and Vegetables	28
E. Russell County Fair	28
F. Forestry	29

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

A. L. ELLER, JR.

Name

COUNTY AGENT

Title

Agent

MICHAEL C. AMTNER

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1959

RUSSELL

County