

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

Allan McLearn

Name

County Agricultural

Title

Agent

W. R. Owings

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1959

Madison

County

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MADISON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE BOARD

COMMITTEES

Agronomy
Livestock
Dairy
Horticulture
Forestry
Poultry

F & H DEVELOPMENT
FOOD PRODUCTION
& PROCESSING

4-H ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COUNTY
H. D. COMMITTEE

4-H COUNTY COUNCIL

PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT
HEALTH
CITIZENSHIP

DHLA
Yearling Sale
Feeder Calf Sale
Artificial Breeders
Association
Wool Pool

Farm Bureau
Rochelle Grange
Burnt Tree Grange
Brightwood Ruritan
Young Farmers Club

4-H Clubs (13)
Baby Beef Club
Honor Club
All Star Chapter

12
H. D. Clubs

THE PEOPLE
WHERE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT BEGINS

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Long and short time policies are made and carried out through the Madison County Agricultural Extension Service Board committees that meet as needed. The splendid cooperation of this board and such typical groups as the governing boards, newspaper and radio personnel, other professional workers, local business men, ministers, teachers, and of course, the hundreds of individuals who gave so liberally of their time and talents insured a broad, balanced Extension program.

Several individuals deserve a special mention for "above and beyond" services.

W. Rapley Owings, our full time assistant agent who through outstanding work, particularly in 4-H and livestock endeavors, has long since proven he's ready for his own county.

Mrs. Sarah U. Gibbs, our Extension secretary, for long, loyal, and superior service in all Extension endeavors.

G. H. Clark, District Agent, for counsel and friendship both so highly essential in successful county agent activities.

The entire state administrative staff and specialists for full and excellent assistance.

TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Madison, a rural county comprised of 325 square miles, is located on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Northern Piedmont Section of Virginia, with a population of 8,273. The climate is temperate and well suited to pasture, hay, grain,

and fruit crops. The frost free season averages 185 days and rainfall around 40 inches.

Other than a few northern farmers who have bought here, Medison people are native born descendants of the early settlers who came from Germany and the British Isles, or as Negro slaves. Most Medisonians are thrifty, hard workers who will accept new ideas.

Soils are derived residually from granite, gneiss, and schist of a very old geologic age. The resulting soils, Cecil-Lloyd, Tatum-Hayville-Davidson (among others), have a gray-brown loamy surface and a red subsoil. There are variations in the productivity but generally these soils are well suited to the type of agriculture practiced.

There are no railroads in the county but highways leading to markets are good. Electric and telephone lines blanket the county.

OVERALL SITUATION

The 1954 census shows the county with 1,068 farms, of which 929 are white operators and 139 are Negro. These farms average about 125 acres each, but are gradually increasing as most farms being sold are going to already well established farmers. Approximately 575 families make the greater portion of their living from the farm. Each year, however, more families seek outside employment to supplement their declining income.

The low net farm income is the county's real problem at present. This is partially due to the price-cost squeeze, but is also affected by such factors as units too small for the particular operation in

which they are engaged; in efficiency in other cases. Many operations need to be increased in scope while others need to add new enterprises. All need to review their labor situation. Increased care and caution must be practiced everywhere. Lack of farm facilities, capital, and interest make it impossible for some to adjust. Off-farm work fairly closeby should be provided for them.

OVERALL EXTENSION GOAL

Encourage Madison County people to recognize needs and furnish enthusiasm for stimulating interest and a conscientious desire for working out solutions for themselves, thus making possible a more prosperous and pleasant community in which to live.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. AGRONOMY

Situation - A good land use and contour system is in force on many farms but much is left to accomplish. Much land of a good soil type needs to be drained. Bottomland farming should be intensified. Lime tonnage slowly increasing after big slump in recent years. Fertilizer tonnage increasing but pasture use still far below what it should be. Farm supply dealers are most cooperative. A summer drought cut corn yields up to 25% in many areas. Hay yields normal.

Short-time Goal - Keep all dealers and farmers advised of total agronomy practices. Obtain soil survey.

Methods and Results

Years of work to obtain a soil survey were finally successful this year when official notice came that the work would start in December. Proof positive that a good job was done by our agronomy committee, business concerns, board of supervisors, health department and many individuals.

Farm suppliers and interested individuals were out in big numbers for a meeting in which the latest varietal and agronomy materials and techniques were discussed by a VPI specialist and a representative of a commercial concern. Material was fed the suppliers all during the year, mainly through personal contacts. The fact that it is a near impossibility to buy a non-recommended item is proof this system is highly effective.

The arrangement made a couple years back whereby all ASC soil samples come through the agent's office for full recommendations was carried on with good results for all concerned.

Nearly all dairy and livestock meetings included an agronomy section. Much time also spent on individual agronomy problems that ranged from when to cut alfalfa to a complete farm plan.

CORN

Situation - Over 98% of the 7,500 acres of corn for grain and 4,000 acres of silage is a hybrid variety. In that Madison farmers enjoy growing this crop a rather good job is done throughout the county. There are, however, problems:

1. Never enough acreage planted to corn.
2. Per ton and per bushel cost of production rather high on most farms.
3. Poor stands.
4. Weeds.
5. Greater amount of fertilizer needed, particularly nitrogen, on many farms.
6. Insects and diseases.

Goal - Improve plant stand on 100 farms. Set up three 2,4-D weed control demonstrations. Apparently overall educational program on corn rather effective. Dealers report sales of 10-10-10 fertilizer up, with old standby 5-10-10 off. Chemical weed material sales highest on record. A check also revealed many farmers buying more seed per acre. In order to accent the need for more plants per acre the agent made 60 "cornfield" visits and had the owner actually assist in the plant count. Farmers were nearly always surprised to learn their count was not higher.

Two 2,4-D pre-emergence spray demonstrations carried on at Graves Brothers and Cone Brothers showed that this practice should be increased, or at least that was the opinion of the farmers and dealers who dropped by for a "look-see."

Cone Brothers also planted 839 on a demonstrational basis. This corn, a possible replacement for 848, stood up better and yielded a bit more in a comparative test.

Agent also continued practice at harvest time of field checking and comparing the various corns at a great many places to determine yields, standability, disease, growth habits, ease of harvest, etc.

Corn yields off about 25%, particularly in the central area of the county.

SMALL GRAIN

Dealers whole heartedly joined in an all-out educational campaign to work on the following problems involved in small grain production.

1. Many farmers do not appreciate actual feed value of oats.
2. Low yields.
3. Lodging on fertile areas.
4. Big insect damage in stored grain.
5. High yielding Hudson barley sometimes hard to combine.

Dealers "ads", partially worked up by agent, carried story of big feed value of oats and how to go about getting high yields. Land seeded to oats did increase, particularly the Arlington variety used for expected lodging situations. A record sale of grain storage insecticides indicate good results in that area. Displays, the advertisements, posters, radio, and newspaper appeals all helped but not nearly so much as the individual approach used by dealers, as well as the agents.

HAY AND PASTURE

Situation - Stands seeded in the fall of '58 were drastically reduced due to the dry, hard winter. Fescue slowly gaining in popularity. The ever increasing number of livestock on many farms points up big need for greater fertilization and better management of hays and pasture. Rotational grazing needs to be expanded. Thirty hay conditioners in use in county have helped to improve hay quality.

Problems

1. Most of last fall's stands need replacing.
2. Poor hay quality on many farms.
3. Too little fertilizer used as topdress.
4. Very little rotational grazing.
5. Insect damage increasing.
6. Fast build up of cattle.

May Goal - Initiate program for quality improvement to result in 10% increase on dairy farms. Get out 300 tons of heptachlor fertilizer for alfalfa weevil control.

Methods and Results

Newspapers and radio carried many stories on how to re-do the stands and they undoubtedly helped but the spring rains insured them. More than 300 tons of heptachlor fertilizer was properly used largely resulting from the many individual visits to farmers and suppliers. Control was near perfect except in a couple of instances where the fertilizers were drilled in. Approximately 10 hay conditioners were bought (many jointly) in county during this year. The agent attempted to visit each hay conditioner buyer and go over the proper stages of cutting all hays. Samples of quality hay were displayed at several meetings. Quality very definitely improving.

Pasture Goal - Initiate a fescue expansion program.

In order to provide extra feed for the ever expanding cattle population our agronomy committee decided fescue acreage should be increased. An educational campaign showing possibilities of fescue was launched with a result that an all time high of fescue seed was

sold. This is a program that needs attention in 1960. The plant food pasture demonstrations were continued as in the past where they were used to actually show farmers, dealers, in carloads or individually, that good management is the answer to maintaining a high producing stand.

B. DAIRY

Situation - Dairy cattle have increased since the last census which shows 4,187 cows and 5,184 heifers on 933 farms. One hundred and thirty selling milk with 45 Grade A dairymen. Efficiency relatively high on "A" farms; improving but still very low on "B" operations. Both type operations are increasing scope but "A" much the faster. "B" milk now all going to Strasburg rather than partly to Alexandria, thus meaning one company does have ample milk volume to be profitable.

Problems

1. "A" men need to do much improved job of raising replacements.
2. Too many cows not being artificially bred.
3. "B" operations efficiency low
 - (a) herd size of 6 too small
 - (b) poor producers
 - (c) management practices low.

Goal - Have all dairy cows Bangs tested during '59 and raise butterfat 10 pounds on "A" farms.

Methods and Results

The local DHIA unit actually will have a 10 pound increase. As in the past, three well planned and attended meetings plus the

annual producers meeting, all included some good basic dairy practices as well as the very latest developments. The November meeting (other than the 250 weather) was typical. Dan Rice, VPI Engineer, conducted a tour of the labor saving system he had designed for the Weaver Brothers to feed their hay and silage. Dr. Elmore concluded meeting by telling roughage story. We also continued to use the following Grade A set-ups as model demonstrations:

A. Martin Macy (Doane)

Weaver Brothers ("swampy")

J. M. Gibbs and George Lohr (salinum cost operations)

Following Grade "B" set-ups:

Miss F. Julia Shearer

Lewis F. Lacy

All of these operations were used several times by others planning changes.

If all goes well all dairy cows should be Bangs tested (many T.B.) by the year's end. Our system has been for agent to work up list of cow owners, notify owner of details of program, even as to day veterinarian will actually do the work.

The transfer of all "B" milk to the Sinsburg Company has greatly helped marketing. This new set-up has also resulted in closer working relations with the agents office. It is hoped now that the "B" producer can be flooded with valuable management tips (prepared by agent and Fieldman) throughout year.

As the year ends a group of dairymen have asked the possibility of an informal organization that would allow them to get the latest story quickly, no matter what the problem. Speakers would be drawn from VPI, USDA, and the commercial world on topics of interest.

C. HORTICULTURE

Situation - 47 orchardists now have plantings with 4 holding nearly 75%. Peach plantings up from 29,000 to 49,000 in 1956, while apples are up from 44,000 to 48,000. Processors still getting 40% of crop. All men using VPI spray cards.

Problems

1. Many times trees are of a variety that do not sell well.
2. Timing of sprays could be improved.
3. Processors getting too high percentage of crop.

Goal - Use only recommended varieties for new plantings and reduce amount going to processors.

Methods and Results

The long-time established Madison County Fruit Growers Society held meetings and/or demonstrations as follows (most of which were well attended):

December-----	Pruning Demonstrations Fertilizers and Varieties
January-----	State Meeting
February-----	Area School in Sperryville
April-----	Insect and Disease Situation
May-----	Twilight Orchard Meetings featuring Fruit Set and Peach Thinning

Mid-June----- Late Sprays

September----- Harvesting Techniques

As in the past all speakers surveyed local situation before appearing on program. Local growers advise they are carefully watching the peach variety tests at Mrs. Fred I. Coates', at Etlan, and use information to determine varieties to plant.

Agent's office used for pooling requests for Ed Phillips, part time Extension specialist located near Charlottesville. He's done much to help in timing sprays and giving specialist service on short notice.

D. LIVESTOCK

Situation - Cattle numbers gradually increasing since 1954 census showed 990 farms with 5820 cows and 4315 bulls and steers. Calves purchased as calves to be sold as yearlings increasing. Only about 1000 steers in feedlots. Overall efficiency fair to good.

Problems

1. Only 82% of cows producing calf for sale.
2. Parasites.
3. Poor bulls and dams used on some farms.
4. Some calves not vaccinated for Bangs.
5. Ten percent of calves come during "off" season.
6. Inferior heifers kept as replacements.
7. Too high number of calves selling as "mediums" or lower.
8. More silage could be profitably fed on some farms.

Goal - Set up 4 more BCIA herds. Complete Bangs test of all beef cows. Set up spring feeder sale with surrounding counties.

Methods and Results

A committee of beef producers from here joined similar groups from surrounding counties to plan and actually put on a successful feeder sale on April 16. Buyers criticizing the maiden sale said only more cattle will be needed to make it just as successful as the fall sales.

YEARLING SALE

Ninety-four consignors sold 1564 head for a total of a third of a million dollars. This was the only graded sale in the state to increase in price over last year. The '59 sale average 26.93, the '58 sale 26.80.

FALL FEEDER SALES

Forty-six Madison consignors sold 665 calves in the Culpeper, Orange, or Joint sale. All graded sales ran at least 2½ cents per pound higher than sales conducted by the local livestock markets. Although the graded sales of large numbers of "like" cattle do set the prices, one of their chief results has been to raise overall quality of cattle in county. It works about this way. All animals grading below medium are sent back home. This tends to embarrass and inconvenience farmers enough so they replace cows and/or bulls causing low quality.

Time was allotted at all annual meetings for big "plug" for overall good management tips.

A countywide outbreak of pinkeye delayed beef cow Bangs testing so it may not be completed until after first of year.

The biggest single beef endeavor during 1959 was a Stilbestrol research project still underway in connection with VPI. Although only phase one has been completed it can be reported the 30 steers receiving stilbestrol out gained the "checks" by 37 pounds and graded higher.

Five BCIA herds are on test as the year ends. Neighbors were invited and in many cases came to observe weighing and grading. This is undoubtedly one of the major items to be pushed in '60.

SHEEP

Situation - The census shows 63 farmers with 1400 ewes. Management about fair. With the United Wool Growers organization in debt and becoming less of a marketing balance wheel each year, the sheep industry is headed for trouble.

Problems

1. Market difficulties.
2. Parasites.
3. Lamb crop small on some farms.

Goal - Work closely with United or some farmers organization in an attempt to straighten out market difficulties.

Methods and Results

No one Extension endeavor got more detailed attention than the wool marketing problems. Several meetings were arranged for the purpose of having the United organization officials explain in detail their financial position and their plan for the future. Producers

realized they could have received a bit more for the wool if they had sold direct to a mill but they also understood that the mill based its price on that of the "floor" provided by United. Madison men also pledged \$1000 in order to re-finance United. It is hoped other counties will do as well.

Sheep producers were kept abreast of basic and new material by mail-outs throughout year. Producers continued support of state ram sales.

HOGS

Situation - 8,000 hogs on 772 farms. Three make-shift parlors in use. One modern unit almost complete. Most small operations still most inefficient.

Problems

1. Three out of 10 pigs fail to reach market, mostly due to poor management.
2. Need for more suitable hog contracts.
3. Inferior sows and poor boars in use on almost half of the farms.
4. Low hog prices have caused many farmers to lose confidence in hog industry.

Goal - Hold successful management tour featuring latest management procedures.

Methods and Results

The tour was not held. This will be given a top priority in 1960. Individual requests were, however, given every consideration. A year long educational campaign featuring management tips through radio, newspaper and individual visits were carried on.

E. POULTRY

Situation - Never has the poultry industry in Madison looked sicker. Our big commercial hatchery has closed. A big modern commercial laying unit of 6600 is under bankrupt procedure. Producers confidence is at an all time low.

Problems

1. No market outlets.
2. Producers need to regain confidence.

Goal - To answer all individual requests and give assistance to hatcheries, feed suppliers, and all others helping with the poultry industry.

Methods and Results

Few requests came in for help but all were met. Model set-up at the following farms are maintained and used as needed.

Broilers-----Ed DeJarnette

Commercial Eggs----- Kiblinger

Hatchery Flock----- Mrs. Walker Hood

About the only bright spot in the poultry situation as the year runs out is that a group of producers, most of whom live in Culpeper, are attempting to set up their own egg grading and selling cooperative. The co-op's purpose will be to sell a large volume of quality eggs under contract to the big food chains.

F. FORESTRY

Situation - Interest in forestry plantings and tree marking growing, but all too slowly.

Problems

1. Lack of farmer interest.
2. Labor to set trees sometimes not available.

Goal - Put out 100,000 trees and continue to "plug" for overall forestry management improvement.

Even with the near perfect cooperation of the Virginia Forest Service, only about 60,000 trees were planted by farmers and 4-H'ers. The plan proposed a couple years back has again been suggested. The idea will be for ASC to set aside \$1,000 to be used solely for small plantings for beginners.

The Forest Service uses the facilities of the county agent's office and as the place to pick up requests left by farmers and others.

G. INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

Situation - We had many of both but none in epidemic proportions. Spotters assigned early in the year reported on any unusual insect and disease situations in their areas. This proved a big help in timing needed sprays.

ALFALFA WEEVIL - over 90% of the alfalfa acreage either had a heptachlor application in fertilizer as a spray.

JAPANESE BEETLE - worse than usual but no need for any all-out spraying.

BANDS DISEASE - As explained elsewhere the county is under test and should be completed around April 1, 1960.

FINCNEY - This disease reached epidemic proportions. Some farmers had cattle vaccinated twice at a rather high cost, others used salt or some prepared material while others did nothing. Regardless of treatment all animals suffered, lost weight, and a few eyes.

H. MISCELLANEOUS

Many contacts are gained by the lending of veterinary instruments.

SPECIAL AWARD - on the hottest night of the year our staff was presented the Superior Service Award by USDA, one of two in the United States.

Other activities are so varied as to include leadership work with such groups as churches, negro farm groups, national farm organizations, womens club, fire company, health and welfare departments. All of these are time consuming but all definitely meeting an unfilled need here in Madison County

EVALUATION OF YEAR'S WORK

Like the man said, "The best laid plans of men and mice sometimes go astray." Certainly it had been our intent to really study and be in position to discuss the public policy field of price support. Instead, the ever growing number of those who came got about the same old incomplete story as in the past. In forestry, hog, and poultry fields too, there is much to be done to either gain or restore confidence. All is not lost though. An ever expanding

Public Relations Program places us in contact with nearly all of our 1760 families. Many want to take part in our positive marketing activities while others want assistance in anything from a complete farm plan to how to join a particular church. Truly we always try to help people to help themselves.

FARM and HOME DEVELOPMENT

Situation - Farming at a profit is most difficult for all now, particularly for our Farm and Home Development families whose operations are smaller than average. Little work as such has been done on this program since Alvin Denton resigned. At the time of his resignation he had done some work with 23 families.

Goal - Start work again with those of the original 23 families that are interested and possibly add more.

Problems

1. Low income due to small volume and poor production and marketing techniques.
2. Many of these farms need supplemental income.

Methods and Results

Of the 23 Farm and Home Development families, 5 have been worked with very closely. The agents have endeavored to visit each of the others as often as possible and attempted always to have them take part in the overall Extension activities.

4-H CLUB WORK

Situation - Madison County has 12 active 4-H clubs with a membership of 167 boys. Nine of these are junior clubs that meet during school hours. The three senior community clubs hold eleven meetings a year in homes of the various club members. A very active Honor Club, County Council, and the newly organized 4-H Advisory Committee contribute leadership and guidance for the overall club program.

Goal - Addict in the development of boys and girls into useful and desirable citizens.

4-H ADVISORY COMMITTEE

After much thought and careful planning a 4-H Advisory Committee composed of 6 interested men and women and the president of the Honor Club was organized in January, 1959, for the following purposes:

1. To make sure that the 4-H Club program is moving in the right direction in meeting the needs of the people.
2. Furnish constructive criticism and new ideas.

Charter Members: Sidney Coates, William Price, Culton Goodall, Mrs. Jean Yowell, Mrs. Jean Gallinugh, Mrs. Elizabeth Tourond, Bobby Jenkins.

After a thorough review of the situation the committee came up with the following problems and suggested solutions:

Problem I - Need to make the existing 4-H program more effective in reaching, assisting, and developing the individual club member. More personal assistance.

Goal I - Correct the situation by developing a network of community leaders. Have a minimum of 6 active community leaders by 1960.

Results - Four men who are respected in their particular communities are now serving as leaders. Two more are lined up and ready to go. Leaders to visit, assist, and encourage each boy twice during the year - once with the agent.

Problem II - High percentage of dropouts between 7th grade and the senior community clubs. Need to hold senior 4-H club members.

Goal II - Increase the percentage of 4-H Club members in the grades from 55% to 60%, senior 4-H Club members from 18% to 24%.

Results - will not be known until next spring.

Problem III - Low project completion.

Goal III - Increase member completion from 65% to a minimum of 75% by 1960.

Recommendations and Results - Number of completions was increased from 65% to 73%, project completion from 62% to 74%.

4-H COUNTY COUNCIL

One of the primary purposes of the County Council is to see that each of the newly elected officers in the 12 clubs receive definite leadership training. Also, committees (with the assistance of adult leaders) suggest goals which may be adopted by the entire group.

Goals

1. Set up 4-H Club yearbook.
2. Sponsor Achievement Program.
 - (a) plan program, refreshments, etc.
 - (b) awards to be presented to outstanding junior and senior clubs
 - (c) award gavel to club with largest percentage of parents present
3. Enter 4-H float in Madison County Day parade.
4. Have two County Council meetings - September and April.
5. Send delegate to 4-H Camp and help pay expenses.
6. Sponsor countywide picnic.
7. Have exhibit at Madison County Day.

Methods and Results

Goals were established and leadership training provided at the October meeting. In May accomplishments were reviewed and camp delegates elected. Both council meetings were attended by a minimum of 75% of the members and leaders.

Committee members published a yearbook that was distributed to all 4-H club members. This yearbook received recognition at the State 4-H Adult Leaders Conference.

Achievement Day will be held in December from now on. It will be covered fully in next year's report.

Nancy Payne Brown, Billy Coppage, and their committee planned and constructed the 4-H Float that won top prize money (\$50.00) in the Madison County Day parade.

Approximately 200 4-H'ers, leaders, and parents enjoyed the good food and swimming at the annual 4-H countywide picnic on July 3.

4-H HONOR CLUB

The primary purpose of our Honor Club is to recognize outstanding senior 4-H'ers and thereby encourage them to continue their climb up the 4-H ladder. At present there are 37 active members.

Goals

1. Have one or more socials.
2. Be of service to younger club members.
 - (a) project work
 - (b) record books
 - (c) contests
3. Secure more senior club members.
4. Seventy percent attendance at the two County Council meetings.
5. Sponsor National 4-H Club Week observance.
6. Sponsor Rural Youth Sunday service.
7. Have community project.
8. Send delegate to camp.

Methods and Results

The State Bank of Madison sponsored the 4-H Honor Club banquet in Madison on January 28. Sixty-five members and guests enjoyed the banquet and the formal and informal initiation program. G. H. Clark, district agent, was guest speaker.

Eight 4-H'ers and the "Stardusters" kicked off National 4-H Club Week observance on March 7 with a half hour radio program over WJMA in Orange.

On March 9 the 4-H girls entertained at a tea for their mothers and friends at the War Memorial Building in Madison.

March 12 - Approximately 350 were in attendance at the 4-H Share-the-Fun Contest and 60 boys and girls participated. Prize money was donated by the Madison County Farm Bureau Federation.

Junior Winner-----"Becky" Estes

Senior Winner-----"Dynatones"

March 13 - Special 4-H section in Madison County Eagle.

March 14 - Senior 4-H dance at the American Legion Home with music by the "Stardusters."

Rural Youth Sunday was not observed this year.

4-H CAMPS

To meet the needs of varying age groups, interest, and ability, a wide variety of camping opportunities are offered 4-H'ers. Attending these camps were 33 boys from the county.

Holiday Lake Junior Camp - 22 boys. Frank Tourond (a Sioux Indian) and Gordon Lohr (Honor Club Member), both from Madison, taught a class in "Indianlore."

Conservation Camp - Jimmy Ashworth and James H. Henshaw, II.

Ten outstanding young men from the county participated in many activities during the 1959 Short Course. The Livestock Judging Team placed 9th, and Bobby Jenkins was initiated into the All Star Organization.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Situation - Madison County 4-H'ers are currently enrolled in 19 different projects. General outline of boys project instruction as follows:

- December - Junior Clubs -- Forestry, Market Hogs, Chicken of Tomorrow
Senior Clubs -- Winter Rations for Beef Cows and Calves
- January - Junior and Senior Clubs -- Film Strips on Brood Sow
Management and Livestock Judging
- February - Forestry and Breed Identification with use of visual
aids.
- March - Junior Clubs -- Forestry, Garden Suggestions,
Broiler Management
Senior Clubs -- Livestock and Dairy Judging
- April - Selecting, Feeding, and Showing the Market Hog
- May - Junior Clubs -- Annual Picnics and Outings
Senior Clubs -- How to Choose Your Occupation,
Fertilizers and Analyses
- June - Senior Club Picnics
- September - Clubs re-organized, new officers elected,
projects selected
- October - Senior Clubs -- Career Exploration
Junior Clubs -- Care of the Dairy Heifer
- November - Senior Clubs -- What's New in Agriculture
Junior Clubs -- Project Selection, Baby Beef Projects
(Junior club members walked from school to nearby
baby beef projects where they received their
instruction first hand)

LIVESTOCK

Situation - 4-H'ers in Madison County are primarily interested in livestock projects with Market Hogs, Baby Beesves, and Brood Sows making up the big three.

Goals

1. How to select the desired type of livestock, correct feeding and management practices, importance of keeping records to be stressed. Help develop responsibility and good sportsmanship.

2. Increase participation in area livestock shows.

3. Have a livestock judging team in competition at Short Course.

Make every effort to have a Dairy Judging Team.

Methods and Results

SWINE - The agent assisted 4-H'ers in the selection of approximately 150 market hogs, 12 gilts, and 4 boars.

Market Hog - 33 of the 48 boys enrolled completed with a total of 121 animals.

Brood Sow - 8 of the 11 enrolled completed.

Six 4-H'ers showed 12 hogs at the Richmond Junior Fat Stock Show in April. Russell Tanner's Hampshire hog was first in the 200-220 pound class and he also won the Fitting and Showing contest.

Madison County 4-H'ers were the owners of almost half of the 180 hogs shown in the Orange Area Hog Show. Eddie Lehr's Yorkshire gilt was Grand Champion and Scotty Jones' home raised Hampshire was Reserve Champion.

The 1958-59 Sears Pig Chain was in the Peola Mills-Etlan area. From the standpoint of management practices, interest, and competitive enthusiasm this was the very best pig chain that this agent has supervised. Eight of the boars were purchased by farmers in the county. Grant Lillard was top scorer but as far as the agent is concerned all of these boys were winners and the scores were very close.

Because of the interest shown by these five boys with Sears sows, they were excused from school by the principal for a day to attend an adult tour of hog parlors and multiple farrowing units in Fluvanna and Goochland Counties.

All of the boys taking a brood sow or market hog project were visited at least once and most of them three or four times to assist with their projects.

BEEF PROJECTS

Fourteen boys with 25 steers completed the baby beef project and chalked up an impressive record in the process.

A Baby Beef Field Day was held at Billy Price's on December 6, with 17 4-H'ers and parents present. With the assistance of Pete Lohr basic principles of management, feeding, and halter breaking were demonstrated.

Austin Shepherd, assistant agent in Orange, judged the baby beef projects December 29. A local feed dealer donated 400 pounds of feed to the boys doing the best management job.

Six 4-H'ers showed 8 baby bovines at the Richmond Junior Stock Show in April and brought home \$26.00 in prize money.

Madison County 4-H'ers for the third time in a row made a clean sweep of the Charlottesville Area Baby Beef Show. Billy Price showed the Grand Champion steer and won the Fitting and Showing contest. Ronnie Boyd showed the Reserve Champion Angus. Ronnie Boyd's, Gordon Lohr's, and Leonard Berrey's three prime Angus steers made up the

Grand Champion County Group-of-Three and these boys were winners of the all expense paid trip to the Eastern National Livestock Show.

Three boys entered 3 steers in the Culpeper Farm Show. Billy Price's steer was Reserve Champion Angus. The fourth steer that Price showed placed 5th in his class at the Atlantic Rural.

Four of the five boys enrolled in the Market Beef project completed.

The four boys enrolled in the Beef Herd project completed with Bobby Jenkins doing the outstanding job.

SHEEP

Two boys completed in the Farm Flock project and one in the Market Lamb project. James Henshaw became interested in sheep through the 4-H program and started four years ago with 17 western ewes and a Hampshire buck. Today he has a flock of 40 top producing commercial ewes that were responsible for a fair share of this year's net farm income.

DAIRY

Six of the ten 4-H'ers enrolled in dairy projects completed. Glenn Kidd's Holstein calf placed first in her class at the Northern Virginia Dairy Show.

We did not have a Dairy Judging Team in competition this year.

LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM

Nine boys tried out for the livestock judging team. They received training at surrounding farms, judging schools, and the University of Maryland. Walter Fisher, Pete Lohr, Hunter Weaver, and Russell Tanner

made up the team that placed 3rd in the District and 9th in the State (3 member team). Walter Carl Fisher was 5th high individual.

FORESTRY

Of the 63 enrolled in Forest Appreciation, 52 completed. Following steps in instruction used:

1. Field trip to observe tree and leaf structure and to identify common trees.
2. Discussion of record book and awards.
3. Charts of wood-use and enlarged leaf prints of common trees.
4. VPI Tree Identification Contest.
5. Closed this project with a talk by F. D. Kidwell, local forester, on the Importance of Forests and Forest Products and a tree planting demonstration.

Following boys planted loblolly seedlings: Maynard Reynolds-600, Glenn and Joe Kidd-500, and 6 other boys planted 50 each.

Dickie Walrond set out 500 poplar seedlings.

ENTOMOLOGY

Situation - 15 members enrolled

Goal - Acquaint 4-H members with life history, habits, prevention and control of the more common insect pests. Also provide an interesting project for boys living in small towns.

Methods and Results

Club members were taught how to make a killing jar, insect display box, spreading board, and a collecting net at the May meeting. Two other meetings were held during the summer to identify and practice mounting insects.

Dr. J. O. Rowell, Extension Entomologist, was present at the Entomology Club meeting in September. His carefully selected slides, movies, and insect "Tic-Tac-Toe" were not only very educational but were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Although these boys and girls were very enthusiastic and had good insect collections, only 4 of the 15 turned in completed record books.

POULTRY

Goal - Instruct 4-H'ers in good poultry management and marketing practices.

Of the 11 enthusiastic youngsters enrolled in the Junior Broiler Contest, 10 completed. The agent worked closely with the VPI specialist, feed and hatchery representatives in bringing the best available poultry management practices to the boys and girls enrolled in this project.

Five out of the ten top entries in the area contest were from Madison and Billy Coppage's and Joe Goodall's entries placed 2nd and 3rd. Billy Coppage's entry went on to place top from the area and 5th in the State Contest.

Madison was host county for the area poultry judging school and had an ineligible (because of age) poultry judging team.

Spikes Franceschini, the only boy taking egg production project, completed a successful year from the standpoint of both records and management with his 50 Hy-Line hens.