

5. Method and result demonstrations.
6. Telephone
7. Meetings of farmers on specific projects
8. Meeting of civic clubs.
9. Tours.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

The County Extension Office moved into new quarters on October 30. The office space is part of the new addition to the County Courthouse and includes sufficient room for the Home Demonstration Agent's and County Agent's Offices to be combined. This will be helpful to the agents in coordinating work and to the secretary, who, has in the past, had to work under adverse conditions with one office in one building and the other in another. The Extension Office includes three rooms and a storage and work room. The County ASCS has its own office.

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The Lynchburg Feeder Calf Association is sponsoring the project and is offering one hundred dollars prize money. Mr. O. B. Ross, retired County Agent came up with the project idea and got it rolling.

IV. COOPERATION WITH SCS, ASC, AND FHA

The agent met with the ASC Committee in developing their program for the county for the coming year and has assisted in informing the farmers of the county of the operation of the various undertakings of the ASC office. This has included the ACP program, the Feed Grain Program and the Wheat and Barley Program. The ASC office and County Agent's Office are conveniently located in adjacent rooms and each cooperates fully with the other.

This agent served as Secretary of the Robert E. Lee Soil Conservation District in 1961.

The Supervisors of the Soil Conservation District meet the first Friday of every other month. This agent has mailed notices of meetings to all of the Supervisors, attended each meeting and kept minutes as required by the Secretary. The agent has also attended to all correspondence as instructed by the Chairman of the supervisors.

In cooperation with the FHA this office refers farmers needing various types of loans to this credit agency and assists the FHA supervisor with recommendations.

V. MEANS OF REACHING PEOPLE

This agent uses the following ways and means of reaching people of the county with information of timely interest:

1. A weekly newspaper column in the county newspaper and an occasional article in the Lynchburg News which reaches most of the homes in the county.
2. Announcements are sent to Wayne Tyler, WLVA's Farm Reporter, of events of interest to farmers.
3. Circular letters.
4. Personal contacts and farm visits.

a good start with a good selection of boys and pigs available to us in February.

2. County Forestry Contest

The County Forestry Committee sponsored a County Forestry Contest. The purpose of the Forestry Contest was to improve, maintain and increase the forestry resources in Amherst County. The minimum acreage for 4-H members was set at 1/2 acre or 500 trees. Both spot planting and open land planting were used.

The following boys and girls participated:

John P. Wiksw Jr.	Donnie Lawhorne
Carrol E. Staton	Rebecca Ann Davis
Linda Cobb	Martha McConnell
"Chucky" Shelton	Libby Hodges
Michael Hutchinson	Jerry Coffey
Kenneth Evans	Phillip Davis
Russell Volk	Kenneth Harris
Harry Clingempeel	Sue Mays
Andy Evans	

John Swift, the County Forester, judged the contest for use. The final scores are not yet completed.

3. Feeder Calf Project

Five 4-H members from Amherst County are enrolled in a new Feeder-Steer Project. The members are Charles Beasley, Janice and Jimmy Carter, Billy Ellinger and Edward Hunt. Each member has three calves which were bought at the Second Lynchburg Feeder Calf Sale. The calves average weight was 379 pounds when purchased. They were good grade calves and were regraded so each member got a low good, a middle good and a top good calf. This was done so the members would have uniform calves to begin with.

The calves will be scored at home and again when sold in the Spring Sale in April. The calves that show the gain in weight and grade on an economical ration will be declared winners. The aim is for the boys to have them gain about 1 1/2 pounds per day for a total gain of 200 pounds.

3. Nelson County Fair-Livestock Day

The Beef Cattle Club of Nelson County sponsored a Fitting and Showing Contest, September 30, 1961. The purpose of the contest was to prepare the boys and girls to do a better job at the Lynchburg Farm Show. Amherst County had two entries. Mike Morris entered his Holstein heifer. Marion McDearmon his Hereford heifer. Both members are second year club members. Mike Morris was the Loving Cup for the Best Fitted and Shown Dairy Heifer. Marion did well with his Hereford heifer.

4. The Lynchburg Farm Show

The Lynchburg Farm Show is the only fair available to 4-H boys and girls in this county. Four-H participation in the Show was unusually good this year. Both the quality and quantity of exhibits were improved. Mike Morris went to the top with his dairy calf. Marion McDearmon did well with his Hereford heifer. Julia Tucker's steer won second place. Other members did equally well with their sewing and baking and canning.

Jim Martin won a registered Angus calf in the Calf Scramble. He agreed to grow the heifer out and give its first heifer calf back to the Fair.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS

National 4-H Club Week was observed by having special news stories printed in the local paper, The New Era Progress. The paper used 4-H mats in advertisement. Club members put up posters in the business area.

Rural Life Sunday was observed by 4-H members attending worship services as a group in their individual churches.

H. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

1. Sears Pig Chain

Five boys and their parents met at St. Ann Methodist Church and the project was outlined to them. The agents had the pigs bought at South Boston, Virginia. A trip was made to pick up the pigs, however, upon arrival the pigs had been disposed of and the project was discontinued until a later date. We are off to

E. CAMPS

1. District Camp - Holiday Lake

Fifty-two boys and girls attended camp at Holiday Lake, along with boys and girls from Campbell and Prince Edward Counties. Four adult leaders attended and assisted with the overall camp program. Each year more members than we have allotment for, desire to attend camp, however, a member must have turned in a completed record book to be eligible to attend camp, and it is on this basis that the county quota is filled. This is a standing requirement for eligibility to attend 4-H Camp.

2. 4-H Short Course

Four boys attended the State Short Course at V.P.I. Wayne Cash participated in the State Poultry Contest. Raymond Thacker attended as an All-Star representative and Edward Hunt and Michael Harris were two other members from the county who attended.

F. CONTESTS

1. District Contest

Four-H members participated in the District Contests held in Farmville in April as follows:

Wayne Cash - "How to De-beak Poultry" - Placed First.

Boy Edward Hunt - "Livestock Conservation"

Toni Wikswo - "Direct Seeding of Loblolly Pine"

Toni placed with the top winners but was ineligible to participate in the State Contest due to being under 14 years of age.

2. Special Beef Cattle Field Day

W. N. Patterson, V.P.I. Dairy Specialist, met with the agent, 16 4-H members and six parents at Kenmore Farms, August 9, 1961. Marion McDearmon and Jimmy Carter had their beef calves on hand to be used in instruction. Mike Morris also had his Holstein heifer on hand. Instruction was given on selection of the calf, care and management up to, and through, the show held at the close of the day.

office and sent out letters to 26 4-H members who were eligible for an Honor Club. With this group as a nucleus we hope to organize an Honor Club this next year. Replies from this initial letter are in and a second meeting is planned to organize and set up the program for this organization.

3. County Council

The County Council held one meeting this year. At the November 4 meeting an "officers training course" was conducted and the county-wide goals for 1961-62 were selected and they are as follows:

- a. Every club member participate in a club program.
- b. Every member know the 4-H Motto, Pledge and Colors.
- c. Every club member observe National 4-H Week and Rural Life Sunday.
- d. More members should enter demonstration and District Contests even though they are not eligible to win.

D. 4-H YEARBOOK

Every member was given a yearbook at the September meeting. Especially is it good for young club members. The book contains the following information:

4-H Motto	4-H Pledge
4-H Colors	4-H Emblem
4-H Bible Verse	Pledge of Allegiance
County personnel's names, addresses and phone numbers.	
Suggested outline for meeting.	
Events and dates.	
County 4-H program of school project - month and member participation.	
4-H membership	
Honor organizations.	
How to give a demonstration.	
Demonstration score sheet.	

Two hundred ninety of these are boys who are carrying a total of 474 projects.

Home Grounds Beautification was the county-wide project. It is carried by each 4-H member in the county.

B. PROJECT WORK

The 4-H members decided at their meeting in May, that the Home Grounds Beautification Project was to be the county-wide project. Thus the in-school program was built around this project. The officers of the clubs were elected in September and the project began with the October meeting. The agents started the program for 1960-61 with the showing of a selection of slides on home grounds. The members' activity consisted of making a Leaf Collection of 20 leaves, from trees, shrubs and flowers. The agents were well pleased with their 80% member participation. First and second winners were selected at each elementary school. These, in turn, competed in the county countest. The school awards have been delivered, however, the County Winner will receive his award at the Achievement Day to be held in December

Individual enrollment in the various projects is shown below:

Electric	41	Dairy	8
Garden	66	Beef Cattle	12
Forestry	26	Swine	16

These represent the interests and facilities of the boys in the county. These projects listed above are the ones in which the most interest is shown.

C. ORGANIZATION

1. All-Stars

Amherst and Nelson Counties have an All-Star Chapter. Only one meeting was held this past year. Tommy Littrell and Raymond Thacker attended the District Banquet at Holiday Lake in September.

2. The 4-H Honor Club

The Honor Club was discontinued in 1958. The delegation to the 1961 Short Course, consisted of Wayne Cash, Raymond Thacker, Edward Hunt, Mike Harris, Sue Higgins and Julia Thacker. This group met in the agents'

B. RURAL CIVIL DEFENSE

The agent is Vice-Chairman of the County Emergency Planning Committee and has met with the Committee on two occasions to organize and become acquainted with the duties of the Committee. All required reports have been submitted to the State Office.

An effort was made by this agent to obtain assistance from the Federal OCDM in conducting an educational program in Civil Defense with emphasis on radiation-monitoring. Mr. Cosmo Liberti, of the Federal OCDM, answered the request with a personal visit. He seemed extremely interested and set up plans for the Monitoring School July 21 and 22. The agent, with the assistance of the local County Director of Civil Defense, notified county people and requested a pre-registration form be returned. Thirty-five people indicated they would attend. A few days before the date of the school, Mr. Liberti notified this agent he would be unable to conduct the school at the arranged time, to reorganization in OCDM. He would arrange for a later date.

The agent has been unsuccessful in getting a reply from Mr. Liberti even though several attempts have been made. Perhaps this is indicative of a high percentage of the OCDM personnel, thus accounting for the agency's inefficiency.

The agent has conducted, or assisted with, six meetings on Civil Defense education. The material in Rural Civil Defense Kit K-12 was used. In one of the meetings two Nuclear Physicist from Babcock-Wilcox were on the program. The information they presented was in accordance and concurred with the information in Kit K-12. The meetings have been well attended and people indicate a keen desire to learn more about nuclear fall-out and survival.

III. 4-H CLUB WORK

A. PROJECTS AND ENROLLMENT

The 4-H program in Amherst County is being carried on in school clubs altogether. There are 4-H Clubs organized in each 5th., 6th., and 7th. grades in the county schools. There is one 8th. grade club and one Senior club organized in Amherst County High School. Thus, we have a total of twenty clubs with an enrollment of 608 members.

- f. Furnished all alfalfa growers of the county with MS-105, Revised, "Control the Alfalfa Weevil." Wrote alfalfa growers giving the last permissible dates for applying insecticide for control of weevil.
 - g. Furnished all farmers of county a copy of "Recommended Variety of Field Crops for Amherst County for 1961."
 - h. Through newspaper articles farmers were informed of the Extension publications relating to forage production, crop production and fertilization which were available.
 - i. Assisted three farmers with location, design or construction of horizontal silos. The plans included feeding arrangements.
4. Results Obtained:
- a. 785 acres of pasture on 51 farms were topdressed with lime and/or fertilizer as needed as result of soil tests.
 - b. 260 acres of permanent pasture were seeded in 1961 on 42 farms.
 - c. Approximately 1500 acres of alfalfa on 95 farms were topdressed and 129 acres were seeded on 12 farms.
 - d. Three additional horizontal silos were built and put in use.

II. MINOR PROJECTS

A. V.P.I. MAIL-IN RECORDS

Eight farms of the county were enrolled in the V.P.I. Mail-In Record program.

Four are Grade A Dairies; two Beef Cow-Calf operations and two General Farming.

Two of the four Grade A Dairymen have discontinued the program. The others in the program are enthusiastic and for the most part are prompt in getting their monthly reports in. An increase in interest is indicated by farmers approaching the agent requesting information about the program. The county has a quota of twelve which the agent feels will be filled.

2. What was attempted:

- a. Improve pasture management through the use of soil tests, fertilizer and lime applications and rotation grazing.
- b. Establish more permanent pasture and reclaim more natural blue-grass pasture.
- c. Improve the yield and quality of alfalfa hay through improved management.
- d. Increase the production of high quality hay through improved production and harvesting practices.
- e. Increase production and use of silage.
- f. Divert idle acres to pasture or woodland.
- g. Increase the yield and quality of fire-cured tobacco.
- h. Encourage use of Soil Conservation practices.
- i. Encourage use of ACP B-1 and A-2.

3. How the work was carried on:

- a. Planned trip for county dairymen to attend Middleburg Northern Virginia Forage Conference January 26. The dairymen were unable to make the trip due to inclement weather.
- b. Continued the alfalfa result demonstrations.
- c. Held meeting of county seedsmen to go over the recommended varieties for 1961. Howard Potts, Associate Extension Agronomist, assisted with this meeting.
- d. Held two Fire-cured Tobacco Sorting Demonstrations. The use of artificial light was demonstrated. A representative of the tobacco graders and a representative of Appalachian Power Company assisted with the demonstrations.
- e. Encouraged use of soil tests to determine lime and fertilizer needs on each field that has not been tested in the past three years.

- b. Furnished landowners available publications showing methods of planting and spot-planting seedlings.
 - c. Encouraged woodland owners to secure the services of Virginia Division of Forestry in marking timber before marketing.
 - d. A Direct Seeding of Loblolly Pine Demonstration was set up. One acre of idle land on Route #60 was disked and seeded with loblolly pines in April.
 - e. Used newspaper articles to publicize the advantages of good woodlot management.
 - f. Used mass media to caution woodlot owners to be on the lookout for pine sawfly.
 - g. Worked with representatives of Virginia Division of Forestry, Meade Corporation, West Virginia Pulp & Paper Company and Chesapeake Corporation in their forestry programs in Amherst County.
 - h. Encouraged landowners to participate in forestry practices in the ACP. The ASC County Committee agreed to approve an ACP Forestry practice request in addition to an ACP Agronomy practice request.
4. Results obtained:

- a. 441,000 trees were planted on 71 farms in 1961.
- b. Eleven farmers requested Forestry ACP practices through the ASC office.
- c. 1,780 acres, on 25 farms were examined by the County Forester.

D. ACRONOMY

1. Why emphasized:

- a. 19% of the land in the county is cropland.
- b. The livestock and dairy industries of the county are dependent on the production of forage and grain.
- c. The fire-cured tobacco acreage is extremely small yet many farm families are dependent upon its production for cash income.

- h. Through the use of newspaper articles, informed home gardeners of Extension publications which are available related to garden production, insect and disease control in the home garden.
- i. Informed seedsmen, country merchants etc. of recommended varieties of garden vegetables, recommended fertilization practices and recommended insect and disease control practices.

4. Results obtained:

- a. The peach crop was heavy and of excellent quality. The early and extremely late varieties were most profitable. The market fell at the peak of the season.
- b. The apple crop ranged from Fair to Good. In most orchards quality was excellent with good size and color. The quantity was off considerably in some areas.

C. FORESTRY

1. Why emphasized:

- a. Approximately 71,553 acres, or 52% of Amherst County farm land is woodland.
- b. Latest Census Report showed income from wood products to be only 6% of total farm income.
- c. Farmers have a convenient market for hardwood pulp and pine pulp in Lynchburg or Big Island; for veneer logs in Amherst and for saw timber to numerous saw-mill operators throughout the county.

2. What was attempted:

- a. Impress upon land owners and youth the potential value of their woodland.
- b. Got landowners to practice better woodlot management.

3. How the work was carried on:

- a. The Extension Forestry Committee organized and sponsored an Extension Forestry Contest.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Current Trends in Apple and Peach Production Practices.
 2. Summary of Grower Apple Marketing Organization.
 3. Virginia's Apple Promotion Program.
 4. Peach and Apple Insects and Diseases.
 5. Spray Recommendations for 1961.
- b. An Orchard Tour and Meeting was held July 22. This was a joint program planned and sponsored by the Extension Horticulture Committees of Amherst and Nelson Counties.

The morning tour was of the packing shed and cold storage facilities of Silver Creek Orchards. Emphasis was placed on Type of Construction and Material Handling Methods. The afternoon meeting covered the following topics:

1. Fall Apple Advertising Program.
 2. Farm Labor Situation and How It Affects the Fruit Grower.
 3. Practical Weed Control in the Orchard.
 4. Research Results on Stop Scald.
- c. Made available to orchardists Extension publications applicable to fruit production.
- d. Worked with representatives of Virginia Apple Commission in obtaining information relative to commercial producers of fruit in the county.
- e. Worked with representatives of commercial spray material companies in their association with orchardists.
- f. Encouraged commercial orchardists to participate in ACP practices related to their operation.
- g. Each month mailed 208 copies of "Garden Suggestions" to interested home gardeners. Each month mailed 98 copies of "Landscape Notes" to interested home owners.

- c. Wool marketed through the cooperative effort of the four combined pools brought prices comparable to the major wool producing areas of the state. Sufficient buying power was attracted to make a good sale.
- d. Three county purebred cattle breeders are enrolled in BCIA.

B. HORTICULTURE

1. Why emphasized:

- a. 17% of the county's total farm income is derived from fruit.
- b. Fruit production is becoming more technical and highly specialized.
- c. Orchardist are increasing their plantings.
- d. Production expenses are increasing.
- e. Marketing competition is increasing.

2. What was attempted:

- a. The production, harvesting and marketing of quality fruit.
- b. Wise use of chemical sprays to control disease, insects and weeds.
- c. Improve efficiency of labor and machinery.
- d. Improve quality of home gardens.

3. How the work was done:

- a. An all-day meeting was held February 22 for fruit growers of Amherst and Nelson counties. This was a cooperative endeavor planned and sponsored by the Extension Horticulture Committees of Amherst and Nelson Counties. Members of the V.P.I. Horticulture Department, industry representatives and Virginia Apple Commission representatives assisted with the program.

- c. Worked with wool producers of the Lynchburg Wool Pool who, in cooperation with the Bedford, Blackstone and South Boston wool producers, sold the four combined pools as one lot.
- d. The Extension Livestock Committee sponsored a trip to Middleburg to attend the Northern Virginia Forage Conference.
- e. Set up a 4-H Club Feeder Steer Project with five members enrolled carrying 15 steer calves. This promises to be an excellent result demonstration and if successful will promote feeder steer production in the county.
- f. Used weekly newspaper articles to inform cattle producers of latest Extension recommendations.
- g. Made Extension livestock publications available to farmers of the county.
- h. Assisted individual farmers with problems related to livestock production in the following areas: facilities and equipment; selection of breeding stock; feeding; disease and parasite control; forage production handling and storage; economics of enterprises and marketing.

4. Results obtained:

- a. Feeder cattle from Amherst County sold through the Lynchburg Feeder Cattle Sales were as follows:

Spring Feeder Calf Sale	15 consignors	181 head
Yearling Steer Sale	21 "	176 "
1st. Feeder Calf Sale	28 "	328 "
2nd. Feeder Calf Sale	28 "	<u>230</u> "
Total		915 "

- b. The Feeder Pig Sales in the Lynchburg Area have not proven successful. It is the opinion of this agent that arrangements for the present producers to market their pigs through one of the other feeder pig sales should be made until the volume of pigs produced in this area will assure adequate quantity to attract buyers to Lynchburg. The producers must indicate the need for and want a feeder pig sale to make it successful.

1. MAJOR PROJECTS

A. LIVESTOCK

1. Why Emphasized

- a. 35% of total farm income is derived from livestock other than Dairy.
- b. The topography limits crops to hay and pasture.
- c. Adequate water is available on every farm for livestock.
- d. Livestock enterprises are adaptable to part-time farming.
- e. Three good livestock markets are available.

2. What was attempted

- a. Increase livestock numbers.
- b. Improve the quality of breeding stock.
- c. Improve the quality of Forage produced on the farms.
- d. Encourage feeder steer production.
- e. Improve marketing methods and encourage more participation in the feeder sales.
- f. Improve livestock management and feeding.

3. How the work was carried on.

- a. An all-day meeting of the feeder cattle producers was held in January. The following topics were presented:
 1. "The Feeder Cattle Sales."
 2. "Quality Feeder Calves Make Profit."
 3. "Managing The Cow-Calf Herd."
 4. "Control Internal Parasites."
- b. Worked with Lynchburg Feeder Calf Producers Association and Lynchburg Feeder Pig Association in expanding and improving the marketing program.

GENERAL

1. Location

Amherst County is situated in the west-central Piedmont Plateau with the Blue Ridge Mountains on the western border.

2. Topography

Rolling to hilly and mountainous with adequate streams and springs to supply water for livestock on every farm.

3. Climate

Temperatures average about 38° in January and 77° in July. The frost free growing season extends from around April 15 to about October 25.

4. Rainfall

Annual precipitation averages about 40 inches.

5. Size of county

Total land area of 470 square miles or 298,880 acres.

6. Land in Farms

137,524 Acres (1959 Census)
Number of farms - 925
Average size of farms - 148.7 acres

7. Cropland Acreage (1959 census)

Harvested	17,557 acres
Pasture use only	5,359 "
Not harvested and not pastures	<u>3,627 "</u>
	26,543 "

8. Woodland Acreage (1959 census)

Pastured	32,098 Acres
Not pastures	<u>39,455 "</u>
	71,553 "

9. Pastureland acreage (1959 census)

33,379 acres

34
72

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

BAILEY G. WILKINS

Name

COUNTY

Title

Agent

DAN W. MOODY

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1961

AMHERST

County