

VIRGINIA

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REPORT FILES
OFFICE COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION WORK

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

EXTENSION WORK

IN

GILES COUNTY

VIRGINIA

1935.

COUNTY AGENT ANNUAL REPORT.

T. E. Starnes,
County Agricultural Agent,
Giles County.

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PROGRAM OF WORKGoalsAchievements**A. The Corn-Hog Program:**

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| 1. Hold educational meetings to acquaint farmers with terms of 1935 contract. | 1 general meeting held. |
| 2. Give terms of contract publicity in local newspaper. | 1 article published. |
| 3. Organize corn-hog control association. | Organization formed. |
| 4. Accept applications at county agents office only. | All applications were filled out at county agents office. |
| 5. County Agent to supervise program. | Under direction of county agent the program conformed to all administrative rulings. |

B. Marketing:

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| 1. Reorganize Giles County Shipping Assn. so as to cut expenses to a minimum. | This was done. |
| 2. County Agent to serve as association manager. | The association was managed by county agent. |
| 3. Aid farmers in marketing vegetables and produce in conformity with West Virginia law when selling in that state. | All clerks of counties in W. V. accept statement from county agent certifying the seller is a bonifide Giles farmer. 200 statement certified. |
| 4. Provide a bulletin board in agents office listing agricultural commodities for sale and exchange. | Bulletin board furnished. Farmers used it profitably in selling livestock, seeds, etc. |

C. Livestock:

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| 1. Place the following purebred sires among farmers. 6 bulls, 8 rams, 4 boars. | The following replacements made. 11 bulls, 9 rams and 2 boars. |
| 2. Continue program eliminating disease among cattle by vaccination prevention. | 1418 calves were immunized by vaccinating against blackleg, 54 calves for hemorrhagic septicemia. |
| 3. Continue program eliminating diseases among other livestock. | 520 hogs received single serum treatment for cholera and 60 sheep against hemorrhagic sept. |

Livestock; Continued

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Achievements</u>
4. Continue sheep program consisting of proper feed and winter management of ewes, docking and castrating lambs, treatment of stomach worms, and selling lambs cooperatively on a graded basis.	This program accounts for more legumes, better sheep barns, purebred rams and a total of 10,000 ewes treated for worms, 11,000 lambs docked and trimmed, and 2022 lambs sold on graded basis.
5. Continue program for eradicating worms in swine.	115 farms used extension practice methods.
6. Render veterinary service when time permits and circumstances justify it.	Work of this nature practiced only when veterinarian not available and the farmer not able to pay a veterinary fee.

D. Farm Crops:

1. Put on a campaign to induce farmers to grow more legumes for feed and soil improvement.	4 farmers growing alfalfa, 20 farmers growing red clover, and 96 farms sowing lespedezafor pasturage.
2. Production of good seeds: 6 farmers growing seed corn, 5 farmers seed wheat, 2 farmers seed oats, and 3 farmers seed potatoes.	8 farmers producing seed corn, 8 farmers growing wheat for seed, 3 farmers seed oats, and 2 farmers seed potatoes.
3. Encourage germination tests, treatment of seeds before planting.	2 method demonstrations treating potatoes. Lantern slide picture showing disease of corn and other crops, and 30 farmers treating wheat for smut.
4. Furnish timely information as regards planting, cultivation, harvesting and disease and insect pests that affect crops.	Gave out 45 bulletins. Made 22 farm visits, had 75 office calls and discussed disease of farm crops at two meetings.

E. Horticulture:

1. Send out spray card service to all fruit growers in county.	Spray card service to 63 farmers. Seven different sprays sent out.
2. Hold grading and packing demonstration for apple growers.	No meeting held. Placed in the hands of all orchardists, the state rules on grading and packing
3. Give 5 pruning demonstrations.	6 method demonstrations given. 2 apple, 1 pear, 1 peach, and 2 grape.

Horticulture; Continued

GoalsAchievements

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| 4. Furnish information relative to fertilization, cultivation, nurse crops, marketing, and other problems confronting the grower when called upon. | Advised two growers about fertilization, three about nurse crops, one about cultivation, 7 about rodent control, and two about bridge grafting. |
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F. Poultry:

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| 1. Give 10 culling demonstration. | 12 culling demonstrations given. |
| 2. Improve farm flocks by introducing new blood, and buying standard bred chicks from reliable breeders and hatcheries. | Furnished 4 farmers with names of reliable breeders and 16 farmers advised to buy from accredited hatcheries. |
| 3. Remodeling old poultry houses where practical. | Two laying houses remodeled. |
| 4. Recommend to all producers increasing production to do so on a sound business basis. | Advised two farmers about the dangers of too many chickens improperly housed and managed. |
| 5. Help the poultrymen combat diseases by strict sanitation and with other tried practices. | Treated 9 flocks chickens for worms, 72 turkey flocks, and corrected sanitary conditions on 27 farms. |

G. Farm Records:

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| 1. Have 125 farmers keeping a record of their farm business transactions. | 20 regular, and 67 corn-hog contract signers keeping records. |
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H. Other Activities:

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| 1. Hold a farmers picnic meeting visiting the experimental plats at the Agricultural Experiment Station at Blacksburg. | Was not attempted because of farmers too busy and agent not having time to work it up. |
| 2. Promote in cooperation with the Giles County Chamber of Commerce a Folk Music Festival to be held at Mt. Lake. | Could not get the cooperation of the Mt. Lake Hotel Corporation. |
| 3. Maintain interest in Red Cross and relief work. | Served as chairman of Red Cross Chapter, and also a member of the Rural Rehabilitation Com. |
| 4. Cooperate with the subsistence garden program to be carried out in the county. | Furnished garden plans to the director, sent each family receiving seed, and gave advice on disease and insect control when called upon. |

1. AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS AND OTHER FACTORS CONSIDERED BEFORE MAKING OUT THE COUNTY PROGRAM.

As the Giles County Chamber of Commerce coordinates all business activities into its county-wide program, the agricultural program must necessarily become a part of the work of the Chamber of Commerce, and the progress of the program to be reported at any meeting when called upon. Therefore the agent kept records up to date and ready to give a report of the work at any meeting. The program was made with a view of reporting the progress of the program from time to time so that business men as well as farmers might know and understand what the agricultural program means to the county as a whole.

It being agreed and passed upon by the agricultural committee, the program was made out to fit the needs of Giles county agriculture. The committee knew the work of past years, and the value of such work, and wished a continuance of the program that had proved satisfactory in the past. Therefore, much of last years program was written in the program for 1935. The committee also anticipated such service as would be satisfactory in general to the farmers, and was aware of the individual service the county agent would be called upon to render, and included veterinary service in the program because there is not a licensed veterinarian in the county.

Another factor considered is the fact that Giles farmers have long since accepted the Agricultural Experiment Station reports and findings better and superior in every way to those that might be carried on on the farms as individual demonstrations, because trained men conduct the experiments, and interpret them much more carefully than decisions arrived at from demonstration data kept by those who observe the project occasionally. Therefore, the program called for more method demonstrations and less result demonstrations. Showing a farmer or telling him the best method practice of doing a piece of work is much better and agricultural progress becomes faster than when the farmer waits on a result demonstration. The present county agent is the interpreter of agricultural facts in Giles county, and is also the farmers representative of the state agricultural college, and the extension service is fully appreciated by the most progressive farmers and on the whole the great majority of farmers are in favor of extension work.

That the department of agriculture at Washington was asking farmers to control production, the Giles program makers took account of this, and diverted some of the time the agent had spent on production in the past to quality production and marketing. The farmers feel that the extension division should guide them in their marketing problems as well as in their production problems. The agent gave more time to marketing livestock, poultry produce, fruits and vegetables than any program has ever offered in the county, and the results were satisfactory in every way. Our farmers believe that the wise planning, the intelligent and honest leadership, and the dissemination of timely economic information by the extension division is responsible for improved conditions in agriculture.

A. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS:

The 1935 corn-hog contract was so little different from the 1934 contract that only one general meeting was held to explain the terms of the new contract. As the farmers, and more particularly, the contract signers were thoroughly familiar with the old contract only one meeting was necessary. At this general meeting the farmers let it be known that they didn't want to be bothered as much in correcting mistakes as they had been the year before, so it was agreed that all farmers must come to the county agent's office to fill out their applications. This agreement did not affect other work of the agent in the least, as the agent's stenographer accepted all applications when she checked them to find out if they were properly filled out and avoided the possibility of little mistakes before the applicant left the office. This made the program more pleasant to work with the farmers than was the case the year before. Many farmers said they would rather spend a day or more at the start to get all the papers used in connection with their contracts properly executed than to have to come back to the office and correct a mistake they were certain to make when filling out the application alone or with the help of a committeeman.

Altho, there were only 67 contracts compared to 96 in 1934, the program was given plenty of publicity, but no one was begged to sign a contract. The agent published several releases from Blacksburg as well as one condensed article prepared to cover the terms of the contract and eligibility of farmers. The dailies also carried column after column concerning the program. The signers told their neighbors about it. The agent sent out a circular letter containing the high points of the contract to all eligible farmers.

Most of the large producers signed the 1935 contract. The small producers, those who received such small payments did not think it worth their while to sign up for this year, which accounts for the decrease from last year. Following is a summary of the corn-hog program in Giles county.

Number of corn-hog contracts in force -----	67
Corn acres reduced -----	385
Hogs reduced -----	82
Benefit payments received and to be received -----	\$5,386.25
Administrative cost (estimated) -----	325.00
Cost per contract -----	4.85

B. Marketing:

The agent rendered some valuable aid to the farmers in helping them market their livestock cooperatively. Every farmer in the county benefitted by this program. The agent served as manager of the cooperative and kept the farmers informed as to prices the members received for each shipment of livestock. This made the local stockyards and individual speculators pay higher than the would have paid for the livestock they handled. Non-members selling independently did not receive as much for their lambs and wool as was paid to members of the cooperative.

Giles county has always had its share of speculators or individual buyers and shippers of livestock. These men in the past have tried to break up cooperative shipping by meeting cooperative prices and on several occasions have purchased livestock from leading farmers at a higher figure than they could realize by shipping cooperatively. The motive behind such action was to make leading producers dissatisfied. And as cooperative marketing has been carried on in the county for several years, the speculators are about reconciled to the fact that cooperative marketing is here to stay, and this year changed their policy and did not try to meet cooperative prices. Farmers who sold thru the association averaged about 50 cents per lamb above prices paid by the speculators. During the past year our association handled about 75% of the wool clip and 25% of the lambs and cattle. On wool the association increased its volume over last year 74%; On lambs 20%, and on cattle 10%.

This increase was due to the reorganization of the Shipping Association and the services rendered. Serving as manager, the county agent with the assistance of the Agricultural High School Instructors gave the farmers services they had never received before in any of their marketing associations. The president being a large producer of livestock and having eight leading active farmers as directors and all officers and managers serving without pay reduced the marketing cost to a minimum. The association made only such charges as was actually necessary to defray the expense connected with marketing livestock. A singing fund of 5¢ per 100 lbs. on lambs and calves was made. For handling wool 15¢ per 100 lbs, and a flat charge of \$5.00 per carload on cattle. Mr. Paul L. Fletcher, Branch Manager of the Eastern Livestock Cooperative Marketing Association was present at our general county livestock meeting held last March and said that our plan for marketing livestock cooperatively was the best he had known in any part of the country for a county unit organization. Several copies of the plan were made and sent out to farmers. Mr. Kenneth Litton, extension animal husbandryman liked the plan so well that he had other county unit organizations in the state to adopt plans similar to the Giles plan.

Giles being a feeder cattle county and the demand for feeders being strong, it was the policy of our organization to have the farmers list their cattle with the county agent and then the agent to get in touch with farmers in adjoining counties who wished to buy feeder cattle and affect a sale. All cattle listed in the agents office were sold at satisfactory prices for the farmers. This method of marketing our cattle gave us a more satisfactory market than shipping to one of the terminal markets because a farmer knew exactly what he was getting for his cattle when they were weighed up, and the price received was about 50¢ per 100 above the prices paid on Eastern markets for same grade of cattle. 315 head of feeder cattle were sold to farmers in adjoining counties. One farmer alone bought 95 head. Giles farmers felt that anyone buying cattle thru their county agent was willing to pay a fair market value for cattle.

Both wool and lambs were sold on a graded basis. Selling by grade is the most satisfactory way of selling livestock where a number of farmers make up the shipment. The state division of markets established market grades for Virginia lambs. Our lambs were sold under the following grades. Blue circles on top of head for choice lambs, red circles on top of head for good lambs, no mark for mediums, and ownership number mark on back for common and culls. With this

system each and every farmer making up the shipment was paid on the basis of quality, and the farmer who produced good and choice lambs received a better price than the farmer who produced only good and medium lambs. A few complaints were made. Two farmers thought their lambs should have graded a little higher than the grade which they received. As the lambs are graded by a technical grader furnished by the state division of markets the agent advises all farmers who have a complaint of this nature to make a mild protest at the time and the grader usually makes the farmer satisfied before he leaves the scales.

There are many advantages to selling graded lambs. Lambs marketed cooperatively are never shipped until they are ready to be marketed - that is lambs weighing less than 75 lbs. are kept back for later shipments. This gives the farmer more pounds of lamb meat in his shipment. As the price of lambs hold about steady over the season the average lamb will put on about 15 lbs. in 30 days which means an increase of about \$1.00 per head on his lamb check returns. One farmer had 15 lambs to be shipped in August. The weight average was 70 lbs. He was advised to hold the lambs until a later shipment. The lambs were weaned, turned on a clean bluegrass sod and fed grain for about 30 days. The price of lambs had advanced about \$1.50 per 100 lbs. The lambs weighed an average of 89 lbs. when shipped. Twelve graded blue circle, two red circle, and one medium. It paid this farmer about \$2.50 per head for keeping these lambs 30 days at a very little expense. Another feature of lamb grading that is considered is the educational side. The agent sees every flock when the lambs are taken up. If lambs are poor and thin, the agent recommends treatment for worms and better management. If it is the need of a purebred sire, the agent compares the scrub lambs with those of better breeding quality, and urges the farmer to introduce not only new blood but to replace the sire with a purebred ram. On several occasions farmers are interested on who brings the best lambs to their community scales. This competitive spirit and pride in producing good lambs have helped raise the quality of lamb production in the county.

In one section of the county there are a number of farmers who have shipped lambs cooperatively for several years, and each year there is noticed a marked improvement over the preceding year in the quality of lambs produced. This year these farmers were advised to hold back their lambs until they had plenty of weight, and the first shipment of this group was made on July 4th. Four single decks were shipped to Jersey City and the day this shipment was sold there were 18,000 lambs in competition on the market. This shipment brought a premium of 25¢ per 100 lbs. on good and choice lambs and 15¢ on mediums over and above any lambs sold on the market that day. With the agent managing the cooperative shipping association brings production and marketing into a closer relationship, and thereby results in a more efficient program.

One of our best markets nearby for produce and vegetables is the West Virginia coalfields. The West Virginia law requires trucksters and hucksters to have a special license to sell in that state. Bonifide farmers are allowed to sell

the agricultural commodities they produce on their own farms anywhere in the state provided they have a written statement from the county agent which identifies the holder as a farmer engaged in the production of agricultural commodities for sale. The county Commonwealth's Attorney prepared a special form to be used and 200 affidavits were certified to for Giles farmers during 1935.

Another marketing service established for farmers this year consisted in the use of a bulletin board in the county agent's office which listed livestock, grass seed, seed corn, potatoes, wheat, and other commodities which the farmers had to sell or exchange. This service brought farmers who wish to buy and sell together and in many instances the two farmers lived in the same community. When a farmer listed an item for sale he advised the county agent when a sale had been made and his item was removed from the bulletin board.

Following is a summary of the marketing program in Giles county:

No. of cattle sold for farmers-----	315
Value of cattle sold-----	\$19,623 .00
No of lambs shipped cooperatively-----	2,022
Net value farmers received for lambs -----	11,791.24
No. pounds of wool pooled-----	34,602.
Amount farmers received for wool-----	9,620.55
No. farmers certified to sell in W. Va.-----	200
Value of products sold -----	30,000.00

C. Livestock:

The livestock program was a continuation of the 1934 program which consisted in building up the quality of our livestock by securing better breeding stock and to keep our livestock healthy by combatting diseases and improved management in feeding and housing conditions.

The plan called for replacing with purebred sires 6 bulls, 8 rams and 4 boars. The agent was able to get 11 purebred bulls, 9 purebred rams and 2 registered boars placed in the county. As to breeds the following replacements show the trend in livestock production. Cattle - 8 herefords and 3 angus. Sheep- 7 hampshires and 2 southdowns. Hogs- 1 poland china and 1 berkshire. As Giles is a feeder cattle county the farmers are giving up shorthorns at present and replacing them with herefords and angus.

Unless the calves in the county under 12 months old were immunized against blackleg by vaccination losses from this disease would be tremendous. The agent keeps hyperdermic syringes and blackleg agressin on hand all the time. The agent used to do all the vaccinating, but the last few years farmers are doing it themselves. The agent has furnished 6 syringes to farmers this year. Counting the calves the agent has vaccinated himself and the calves for which vaccine was furnished makes a total of 1418 calves that was directly immunized against blackleg for which the extension program is responsible,

Hemorrhagic septicemia or shipping fever is another disease that develop among calves that are poorly fed and cared for. This disease does not take any heavy losses in mortality, but when it develops, the agent always uses it to get a shelter provided for calves by the owner as soon as possible and also gets the calves on that farm to get legume hay the next winter. The agent vaccinated 54 calves against this disease during the year divided among 8 farmers.

Hog cholera broke out in a large herd of hogs from which the farmer was feeding garbage from a hotel. From this source four other herds contracted the disease and the agent was forced to vaccinate all the hogs on adjoining farms. It required about 30 days to stamp out this disease. During the 30 day period the agent vaccinated 520 hogs using the single treatment. This outbreak caused the loss of 67 hogs and cost the farmers for serum \$157.50.

The main interest in the sheep program centered around the production of a better market lamb. With this in view a circular letter was sent to all the sheep owners giving them four different rations for the pregnant ewe. Later another circular followed advising all farmers to dock and castrate all lambs and to treat their flock regular for stomach worms. Soon requests began coming in for method demonstrations. The agent gave 28 method demonstrations in dosing for worms and 86 method demonstrations in docking and castrating lambs. Starting with June all the sheep growers in the county received cards one month apart calling their attention to dosing for worms. This program resulted in getting every flock in the county dosed from one to 8 times during the year using the bluestone and nicotine treatment. It also was responsible for getting approximately 11,000 lambs docked and castrated. The difference in price on lambs docked and castrated was \$1.00 per 100 lbs. in favor of the docked and trimmed lambs. There was one community where the farmers listened to the speculator instead of the extension warning, and this group of farmers were forced to sell their lambs discounted one cent per pound. Had they signed up to ship cooperatively they would have carried out the extension program and profited by it.

With hog prices high and farmers signed up to reduce production caused every farmer who signed a contract to take more interest in his hogs. They were too valuable to lose and farmers wanted to know the best methods of hog production. The greatest help our services could offer was in the form of eliminating parasites and furnishing information on feed supplements. The treatment used for worms was nema capsules because farmers could buy them at drug stores and administer the treatment themselves. Farmers were advised to use crank case oil in eliminating lice. Garages saved up old oil of this kind to give to farmers who would call for it. The most economic phase of the hog program laid in ~~the~~ balancing up the hog ration with mineral substitutes. There were 115 farmers using the best practice methods possible in swine production.

Giles county does not have a licensed veterinarian and because of this the agent is called on to do considerable work of this nature. Where the case is simple and calls for simple treatment the agent accepts calls and treats animals that need the attention of a veterinarian. If the case requires a trained veterinarian, the agent always advises to get one.

D. Farm Crops:

In approaching the farm crops program there was only one thing in mind and that was to produce enough grain and hays to take care of all the needs of the farm. Farmers as a rule generally market their crops thru livestock and poultry and seldom ever have a surplus for sale. An extremely good hay season a few farmers will have some hay to sell.

The plan of work called for a campaign to induce the farmers to raise more legumes for both feed and soil improvement. A circulator letter was sent out stating many advantages in growing legumes for hay and soil improvement purposes. The agent also took up the question of growing legumes personally with many of the farmers whom the agent knew kept sheep and calves and had been feeding feeder and timothy hay. Timothy seed being high helped turn farmers to sowing more clovers and legumes in general. The campaign ended after four farmers were induced to grow a patch of alfalfa, 20 farmers sowing red clover, and 96 farmers sowing lespedeza for pasturage. Almost every farmer sows clover with timothy, but within two years the clover is gone. This year clover grew wild and came up in fields where clover had not been sown for years before. A group of farmers in one community got together and pooled their order for lespedeza seed last winter. The total amount of the pool order was 900 lbs. of seed.

It being a good thing to have a few farmers in the county producing good seeds for farmers who do not have them, the agent each year ask farmers to buy the best quality of seed and produce seed for the local county market. There were eight farmers this year producing corn of higher quality than usual, eight farmers growing seed wheat, three farmers seed oats, and two farmers seed potatoes.

Treating seeds before planting and the encouragement of germination tests was a part of the farm crops program. Almost every farmer who has any smut in his wheat always treats it with copper carbonate. Many farmers treat their seed potatoes with either the formaldehyde or corrosive sublimate treatment before planting. The agent only gave two method demonstrations in treating potatoes, and three farmers ask how to treat wheat with the copper carbonate treatment. Farmers know how to treat seeds before planting from extension practices of past years. The corn-hog contract signers were treated themselves to a lantern slide picture showing diseases of corn and other crops.

The work of the agent in furnishing timely information as regards planting, cultivation, harvesting and disease and insect pests that affect crops consisted of 22 farm visits, 75 office calls, two meetings, and gave out 45 bulletins.

Insect and disease control is the greatest cause of worry among farmers. The agent gives more time to the control of insects and fungus disease affecting crop production than any other part of the farm crops program. Unless the potato farmers sprays he will not likely get above a 50% yield.

E. Horticulture:

Giles county fruit growers represent a high type farmer and far above the average in intelligence because of the amount of technical knowledge needed for success. Therefore, the horticultural program is one where the agent imparts the latest information from the agricultural college to the fruit growers, more particular to the commercial growers. Over years of practice and experience the fruit farmer knows about good methods in pruning, cultivating, fertilization, spraying etc. The small grower who needs the help of the agent is usually not in position to carry out a production program of quality fruit because of the high cost of spraying and fertilizing. In the first place he isn't able to buy the necessary machinery for spraying and packing, and therefore, he does not try to spray. The apples produced on the usual or average home orchard are just so many culls, and the farmer who produces such apples could buy apples from a commercial grower for less than he grows them at home, and then his home orchard would not be a place for insects and diseases to develop.

There are 63 farmers in Giles who make use of the spray card service. There are twelve farmers who follow the spray schedule using all seven sprays. The rest put on from two to five sprays. However the agent sends out the spray card service to all 63 growers. These cards were prepared by the extension horticulturalist at Blacksburg and sent to the various agents in counties having commercial fruit growers.

In pruning the agent gave six method demonstrations as follows: two apple, one pear, one peach and two grape.

The plan also called for furnishing the growers of fruit information relative to fertilization, cultivation, nurse crops, marketing, and other problems confronting the grower when called upon. In this capacity two producers were advised concerning fertilization, three about nurse crops, one about cultivation, and seven about rodent control. Two method demonstrations were given in bridge grafting.

The agent checks several orchards in the early stage of fruit formation and development after danger of frost is over to advise the farmers about spraying. At this checking the agent makes an estimate of the orchard yield. The owner knows then if he can afford to spray using all seven sprays. These estimated yields are generally correct, in fact so close to the crop yields that a few of the growers are depending upon the check each year. This check is made by taking a number of trees in the orchard from spacing so as to get a representative average and then figure the need of the orchard and yield from the trees selected as a representative sample of the orchard.

Each year the agent send out a circular letter to all the fruit farmers advising the about mice injury and control and where bait can be obtained. The year the circular advised our growers to send their orders to the Horticultural Department at Blacksburg, and as the circular was sent out last month, the agent does not know how many responded.

F. Poultry:

Past extension work over a period of years have taught the Giles poultrymen the major points in poultry production. The program this year was not as elaborate as programs of past years. The plan said give 10 culling demonstrations. The agent gave 12 method culling demonstrations. No one farmer can be taught how to cull chickens with one method demonstration. But the agent can after two or three culling demonstrations and considerable reading on the subject by the farmer can have him ready to cull his own flock which is the case here in Giles county on better than 50 farms.

Many farmers buy their baby chicks from hatcheries, and it is very important that they buy from accredited hatcheries and breeders. The agent furnished 16 farmers with a list of state certified hatcheries where the breeding stock had been blood tested for bacillary white diarrhea and certified to as being standard bred chickens. Four farmers were furnished with the names of reliable breeders where breeding stock were purchased.

Wherever possible the agent solves the poultryman's problem by remodeling and old laying house. This was done on two farms the past year. One of the houses was properly ventilated, the old roosting poles torn down and new roost installed with dropping boards underneath. After the house was remodelled, light and ventilation provided, a deep litter placed on the floor, and with the hens comfortable and a getting a balanced ration, the farmer said he didn't know that hens would lay so many eggs in the winter time.

Giles farmers are not advised to keep commercial flocks because of the high cost of producing grain. Our goal is to have from 50 to 100 chickens on every farm, well housed and cared for, and the bulk of the ration produced on this farm. Any one coming to the agent for advise about going into the poultry business ~~xxx~~ is told to commence in a small way, and grow into the business.

Disease cuts profits in poultry to a point to where there are several farmers threatening to give up turkey raising. A cholera like disease was present in flocks this past summer that no one was able to diagnose, but losses in Giles was small to other counties where the disease was present. Farmers talking in such disheartening way are advised to change breeding stock, and then take a little time and trouble to give them the attention he knows that is required for successful raising of turkeys. Somehow men think poultry raising should be done by the women folks on the farm and if they dont make a success they tell the agent they are going to quit the business.

Worms control solves most of poultry troubles in the county. Farmers have used almost every treatment known, but the best one is the kamala and tobacco treatment given in the form of a capsule. The mixture is 50% tobacco and 50% by weight of kamala. The dosage depends upon size and condition of individual birds. This treatment enable Giles farmers to raise approximately 75% of the poult hatched and will market this year about 9,000 turkeys.

G. Farm Records:

The triple A program requiring farmers to keep a record of their farm business transactions is one thing the farmers disliked which if kept straight would be most helpful to them. But the agent has given up all hope of ever getting the present generation to keep a set of farm accounts. It can only come about by force or by a new generation taught in early childhood how to do it in school and by 4-H clubs and similar organizations.

With the 67 contract signers in the corn-hog program only such records as was actually necessary and required before they could be checked on final compliance were kept. The farmers were called together at a special meeting to have the record book explained by an extension economist who after the meeting carried their books back home and forgot they had the record book until a circular letter was sent out stating certain entries must be in the book for the supervisor to check before final compliance was made. Soon after the circular letter went out eight farmers came to the office within a week and wanted to know how to keep the record and where to make such entries as was spoken about in the letter, and six of the farmers forgot to bring their record books. They were accommodated, however, by the agent having one of the record books in his office. In addition to the contract signers there were 20 farmers keeping regular accounts and these are the most progressive farmers of the county. They know from their records what pays best on the farm and can tell the agent what their records have told them about it.

H. Other Activities:

It was planned to have an all day picnic outing among Giles farmers sometime during the summer, and visit the Agricultural Experiment Station plats at Blacksburg, but it was not attempted because of a convenient time to suit many farmers who wanted to go. When it suited some it didn't suit others and it just passed by that way.

Another thing planned was a Folk Music Festival to be held at Mt. Lake, but since the Hotel Corporation did not want to help bear their part of the finances it went on the rocks.

The agent also served as chairman of the county chapter, American Red Cross. Time required in this capacity was charged to relief, but there was no accurate record of the amount of time spent. The agent also served on a committee to select names from the county relief rolls for rural rehabilitation clients. Two meetings were called at which the committee selected 27 clients, which were approved.

Seed loans were also handled in the agents office. One girl from the relief register was furnished to take applications. Five emergency seed loans were accepted making a total of \$245.00. To date \$145.00 has been paid.

The agent organized a group of farmers to plant 50 acres of tomatoes for operating a cooperative cannery. Twenty three growers contributed to the cause. The farmers finally decided not to operate, and sell their tomatoes to a local cannery. No figures are available on this enterprise at present.