

NOTTOWAY COUNTY

EXTENSION PLAN OF WORK

1954

Paul B. Cassell

County Agent

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NOTTOWAY COUNTY EXTENSION PLAN OF WORK

1953

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The county agriculture program has an active Board of Agriculture, which is composed of eight committees; Agronomy, Dairy, Livestock, Poultry, Forestry-Wildlife, Youth, Health, and Home and Community Improvement.

These review the needs and progress of agriculture each year and make long time yearly recommendations or goals to be carried out for the improvement of the county. A copy of program of work will be mailed to each member of the Board.

COUNTY SITUATION

Nottoway County being located near Camp Pickett has a very serious labor problem for the flue-cured, fire-cured farmer, and the dairymen which are the principal types of farming. Many farmers are having to invest in expensive equipment to overcome this problem, however, many good management practices are still undone.

The county is very highly organized with farm and civic organizations which make it very hard to schedule and hold a successful educational meeting.

I. Agronomy

A. Situation

Many farmers have soil types more suitable for growing a particular crop than the soil type they are now growing on it, showing a definite need for proper land use adjustment. There is also much need for the average farmer to fertilize his crops and pasture heavier. There is many acres of idle and crop land that should be in pasture.

B. Objective

To encourage all the farmers to improve the quality and quantity of all field crops and pastures adapted to Nottoway County by use of the latest agronomy recommendations.

C. Methods to be used

1. To get individual farmers to take their own soil samples.
 - (a) All agricultural agencies, fertilizer dealers and agronomy committee will assist in the project.
2. To set up 2 corn production demonstrations. One in the fergusonville section and on south of Crewe or Burkeville, in April and May.
 - (a) The Agronomy committee will assist the county agent.
3. To hold one fire-cured tobacco meeting and two flue-cured tobacco meetings in January or February, by county agent.
 - (a) County agent assisted by agronomy Specialist.
4. To set up two flue-cured tobacco variety demonstrations in February.
 - (a) The Granges will assist the county agent.
5. To set up two fumigation demonstrations for the control of Root Knot Nematode in May.
 - (a) The Plant Pathologist will assist the county agent.
6. To conduct four fertilizer placement demonstrations on tobacco in May.
 - (a) The agronomy committee will help the county agent locate these demonstrations.
7. To publicize the latest recommendations of small grains, include varieties, seed treatment, rate of seeding and fertilizer application.
 - (a) The seed and fertilizer dealers will help with this activity through ads and articles in papers and radio.
8. To set up two Williamsburg Alfalfa Demonstrations in August.
 - (a) The county agent being assisted by the agronomy secure cooperators.
9. To hold two meetings on pasture production in July or August with civic organizations sponsoring them.
 - (a) Agronomy specialist to help.
10. To conduct Land Appreciation Schools in Nettoway County in the spring with the help of agronomy specialist or Soil Conservation personnel.

- (a) Granges to help publicize and participate.

II. Dairy

A. Situation

Due to the shortage of labor many dairy farmers are having to reduce their herds or to buy more feed. Most of the dairies of the county are selling Grade A milk. Fifteen herds are testing in the county D.H.I.A.

B. Objective

To improve the dairy industry of Nottoway County by the use of better dairy management and production practices.

C. Methods to be used

1. Hold 1 day dairy school in February.

(a) Dairy specialists will conduct this program for all dairy farmers.

2. Continue to stress silage and its value through tours, radio, and papers in April.

(a) To be conducted by the county agent and Dairy committee.

3. Work for more participation in the County Livestock show in October.

(a) Dairy committee to head up and carry out this activity through publicity and personal contacts.

4. Continue stressing the need for calfhood vaccination.

(a) A vaccination schedule to be conducted every four months with farmers and veterinarian assisting county agent.

III. Livestock

A. Situation

Beef cattle production was rapidly increasing until the downfall of prices last fall. Many of them are now reducing their herds. Most farmers raise only enough pork for home use.

B. Objective

To further develop the livestock program to meet the increasing needs of Nottoway County at the present.

C. Methods to be used

1. Emphasize Nottoway Beef Cattle Association and its improvement.
 - (a) This is to be carried out by Beef Cattle Association.
2. To hold a livestock school in January to include a display and discussion of livestock equipment.
 - (a) This meeting to be held in connection with beef cattle association. Specialist to conduct school.
3. To urge more farmers to participate in local feeder calf sale, in October.
 - (a) To be carried out by livestock committee and county agent.
4. To participate in the 1953 farmers day cattle show, in October.
 - (a) This is to be carried by the beef cattle association and county agent.
5. To continue to emphasize the use of Clafhood vaccination.
 - (a) This is conducted every four months by the county agent assisted by the livestock committee and vetermarian.
6. Set up list of available sires of good breeding.
 - (a) This is conducted by county agent.
7. Hold a pork cutting demonstration in November.
 - (a) A specialist from the Animal Husbandry department will be asked to conduct this demonstration.

IV. Poultry

A. Situation

Most farmers raise only enough chickens for home use, other than those who sell hatching eggs. There are only four or five broiler raisers. There is room on most of the farms for more poultry.

B. Objective

To set up a poultry program to meet the increasing poultry needs of the county.

C. Methods to be used

1. To work toward a dressing plant to accommodate approximately 50,000 broilers a week in this area.
 - (a) The poultry committee will secure the help of feed dealers and hatcheries.
2. To hold a Poultry meeting during the first 2 weeks of June.
 - (a) A poultry specialist will conduct the meetings.
3. Try to get 10 new Grow Healthy Pullet demonstrations through Granges and Home Demonstration clubs, and Clays' Market, in March and April.
 - (a) Poultry specialist to assist by flock visitation.
4. Continue Farm Flock Demonstrations in 1953 in March and April.
 - (a) Poultry specialist to assist by flock visitation.
5. Emphasize purchasing baby chicks from state approved hatcheries and work with broiler raisers and egg producers to produce a quality product.
 - (a) This is to be done by county agent and poultry committee.
6. To encourage interested broiler raisers to construct facilities to accommodate 5,000 capacity.
 - (a) Poultry committee and feed dealers to assist county agent.
7. To cooperate with local newspapers and radio stations to get stories and articles on the advantages of poultry raising.
 - (a) The feed dealers and poultry committee will help the county agent.
8. Emphasize the value of Range shelters to egg producers by sending leaflets and success stories to them.
 - (a) This will be conducted by the county agent.
9. To assist and encourage the raising of turkeys for broilers and layers.
 - (a) This will be done by feed dealers, hatchermen and county agent.

10. To stress to any farmer raising chickens for a commercial project to raise at least 400 so it will be a profitable enterprise.

(a) This will be done by hatcherymen, committee and county agent.

11. To stress sound poultry management to feed dealers and flock owners. The meeting is in January.

(a) Meeting to be arranged by local hatcheryman.

V. Forestry-Wildlife

A. Situation

Very little saw timber is available in the county today. Very few farmers are taking the proper care of their forest. A few farmers plant game seed each year.

B. Objective

To stress and publicize a good forest and wildlife management program.

C. Methods to be used

1. To stress the planting of seedlings in January and February.

(a) The Soil Conservation personnel will assist the county agent in encouraging farmers to plant seedlings and take orders.

2. To conduct a post treatment demonstration in March.

(a) Forestry committee to assist county agent in getting the farmer to cooperate.

3. Stress publicity and education to reduce forest fires in February and March.

(a) The forestry committee with the help of Virginia Forest Service will conduct this project.

4. Have Forestry committee to select a tree farm in April or May.

(a) With the help of Extension forester this will be done.

5. To attempt to locate areas in the county to be used as a game refuge.

(a) Encourage Baritan and Wildlife association to locate and develop area.

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6. To stress the making of field borders into feeding areas for game.
 - (a) Soil Conservation Service and Wildlife committee will establish borders.
 7. To publicize the Seed Tree Law.
 - (a) County agent to publicize this with the help of Virginia Forest Service.

VI. Home and Community Improvement

A. Situation

Much paper and trash may be found on most of the roads of the county and considerable damage is done to farm entrances by halloweeners.

B. Objective

To encourage the people of the county to take an interest in improving the looks of the community.

C. Methods to be used

1. Have a weeks campaign in rural areas to clean up refuse along road sides. Suggested that this be held at the same time town clean up is held in May.
 - (a) Each grange is to take some area as project.
2. Publicity to prevent property damage (especially farm and mailbox markers) at Halloween.
 - (a) Granges have been asked to undertake this project.
3. To ask each Grange to work toward getting foundation shrubbery on Court House grounds in January and February.

VII. Youth

A. Situation

The community and school activities are so full it is hard to get leaders and organizations to uspport club work. The older youth group isn't being reached as it should be.

B. Objective

To reach more of the Nottoway rural youth with some farm organization and to increase the interest in 4-H club work.

C. Methods to be used

1. To have h-H exhibit Day rotate between Crewe and Blackstone and next year have it tie in with Farmers Day in Blackstone in October.
2. To secure leaders for h-H club work through home demonstration clubs and Granges.
3. Recommend that each h-H club hold tours to earn members project during the summer to be sponsored by each Grange.
4. To have Youth Committees of each Grange work closer with the h-H clubs and help them with their work when they are asked to do so.
5. To ask each Grange to secure more older youth as Grange members.
6. To have each h-H club consider conducting a safety program in their community by erecting skull posters on all hazards found.

Local organizations will be encouraged and asked to assist with meeting these activities.

VIII. Health

A. Situation

There is a shortage of medical services in the county. Lower income people are not observing sanitation laws and standards nor are they taking advantage of the free services offered them.

B. Objective

To improve the health of Nottoway people and to improve the sanitation conditions existing in the county.

C. Methods to be used

1. To urge active participation in the T. B. Chest X-Ray Program in April. The health committee will use these methods:
 - a. radio
 - b. newspaper
 - c. announce in all community meetings
 - d. assistance from the members at clinic (Home Demonstration)
 - e. assist in distributing literature and interpreting.
 - f. transportation by Grange and Home Demonstration club members.
2. To assist in securing financial assistance from the indigent to receive dental corrections from the dental clinics and private dentists from the Granges.

- a. Transportation to these clinics by Grange members.
3. Publicize the county ordinance on Septic tanks by -
 - a. literature and verbal encouragement
 - b. by demonstration of a neighbor

Special stress on (a) and have verbal encouragement by lay and professional speakers, public meetings namely the Granges, Home Demonstration Clubs and 4-H Clubs.

4. To work toward rat and fly control by having Health committee to-
 - a. get out publicity (newspaper and radio)
by rat and fly control.
 - b. hold a one-day sanitation school in May.

IX. Other Agricultural Agencies

A. Situation

The offices of the Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey team, Extension and P.M.A. are located in the Agricultural Building. F.H.A., P.C.A. and N.F.L.A. representatives meet county requests at the Agricultural Building once each week. This enables the close cooperation we now have.

B. Objective

To cooperate with all agencies in every way possible to assist the people of the county.

C. Methods to be used

1. To emphasize the following, the relation of soil fertility to crop yields; the effect of crop rotation to crop yield and soil loss. This is to be done by all agencies cooperating.
2. To discuss the method used by local Soil Conservation work unit in controlling erosion on local farms. This is to be done by the county agent.
3. To discuss the work of agencies at farm and civic meetings and take applications for farm plans. This is to be done by the county agent.
4. To cooperate with Soil Survey Team in getting the information they secure from their work to the people.
5. Direct requests to the proper agency.

X. Publicity

A. Situation

There are two local newspapers that carry an "On the Farm and Home Front" column each week. Extension radio programs are conducted on the two local radio stations once each week.

B. Objective

To publicize the Agricultural program and 4-H club program of Nottoway County.

C. Methods to be used

1. To memograph and mail out copies of plan of work to County Board of Agricultural and County officials.
2. By use of weekly column in two local papers.
3. Articles covering special events in local newspapers by county agent.
4. By use of two weekly radio programs by agents.
5. By radio recordings of special agriculture events and on the farm recording of outstanding practices by agent
6. Through discussion at Grange meetings and other agriculture meetings by agricultural workers and specialists.

XI. 4-H Club Organization Work

A. Situation

There are between six and seven hundred rural children in Nottoway County of club age and there are about 215 club members. There is a need for more adult leaders.

B. Objective

To develop a well balanced 4-H club program so that more interest will be shown among present club members and that more boys and girls will enroll.

C. Methods to be used

1. To have each club participate in National 4-H Club Week in March.
2. To have each club take part in the County wide Rural Life Sunday in May.

3. To have each club participate in County-wide 4-H club picnic in August.
4. To encourage each club to put on a drive to get "National 4-H club News" subscriptions among their members.
5. To hold quarterly County Council meetings to make specific plans for county-wide activities.
6. To train Honor Club members to be active Junior leaders of their local clubs.

XII. 4-H Club Project Work

A. Situation

The club members of the county have more interest in livestock projects than crop projects. There is much room for a higher project completion.

B. Objective

To encourage club members to carry permanent projects they are most interested in, but encourage the addition of crop projects. Also strive for a 100% project completion.

C. Methods to be used

1. Agent to assist members in selecting and developing projects he is interested in October.
2. For agent and leaders to visit all new club members projects and as many other members projects as possible during the year.
3. Leaders or agent to thoroughly explain how to keep records and give any assistance needed.
4. Agent to require up-to-date records by members before they are permitted to go to district camp in July.
5. Have Junior leaders encourage project completion and to get 100% project record books in September.
6. To have leaders and parents encourage members to enter their project in the County 4-H Exhibit Day in October.
7. To have club officers and leaders strive for 100% attendance of club members at County-Wide Achievement Program in November.

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Annual Report

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service



1954

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NOTTOWAY

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NARRATIVE REPORT

OF THE

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK

IN

NOTTOWAY COUNTY
VIRGINIA

1954

PAUL B. CASSELL
COUNTY AGENT

JAMES E. WRENN
ASS'T COUNTY AGENT

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COUNTY SITUATION

Nottoway County lies in Southside Virginia with 310 square miles (less 26,000 acres in Camp Pickett). It normally has a growing season of 200 days and 45 inches of rainfall annually. There are 1226 farms with an average acreage of 97.4. Fifty-one percent of the population is colored, owning 41 percent of the farms. There is no colored farm agent. According to the 1950 census, there were 42,169 acres of cropland and 64,940 acres of idle land.

The majority of farms in Nottoway are family size operations on which there are two or more sources of income. The principle types of farming are: flue-cured tobacco, fire-cured tobacco, dairying, beef cattle, poultry and general farming. The closing of Camp Pickett in June, which is located at Blackstone, has made more farm labor available; but the price of labor is too high for most farmers. Many farmers have invested too heavily in expensive farm machinery to overcome the labor problem. As a result, some are selling out while others are leaving undone many good management practices they normally do.

The County is very highly organized with farm and civic organizations which make it very hard to schedule and hold successful educational meetings. A recent informal survey shows there are at least 31 farm organizations, 33 civic organizations and 24 organizations in the schools in the County other than 4-H Clubs. This survey does not include any church, scouts or railroad organizations.

The drought this year is considered much worse than in 1953 when the farm income was reduced about 30%. Many farmers are already trying to secure hay for their cattle.

For the last ten years dairying has been rapidly growing in the County. It ranks second only to tobacco in county farm income. Beef cattle and poultry made rapid growth during the past five years until their prices fell.

Most of the farmers are discouraged this fall as a result of the third straight drought and the present farm prices. Many have financial difficulties.

About 98% of the farms have electricity, 90% have refrigerators, 63% have washing machines, 32% have electric ranges and 23% have water systems.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The County Agriculture Program has an active Board of Agriculture, which is composed of eight committees: Agronomy, Dairy, Livestock, Poultry, Forestry-Wildlife, Youth, Health, Home and Community Improvement and Publicity Committee. This board meets twice a year.

These committees review the needs and progress of agriculture each

year and make long time yearly recommendations or goals to be carried out for the improvement of the County. A copy of each committee report will be mailed to the members of the Board of Agriculture so they can help carry through the work of their committee. These reports were also published in the two local papers.

I. AGRONOMY

A. Situation

Many farmers have soil types more suitable for growing a particular crop than the soil type they are now growing the crop on, showing a definite need for proper land use adjustment.

The farmers of the county did not continue their fertilization in the Fall of 1953 due to the drought and farm commodity prices. A large increase of pasture has been seeded; but due to the drought and management, the pastures have not produced to their capacity. Farmers are now using most recommended varieties of seed.

B. Objectives

1. To conduct a more efficient use of Lime Seed and Fertiliser Program.
2. To emphasize a better pasture management program through the County Pasture Club.
3. To have two fumigation and irrigation demonstrations on tobacco.
4. To conduct the special 4-W tobacco project in the county and have projects as tobacco demonstrations.
5. To set up a comparison demonstration on barley using Kenbar and Wong varieties.

C. Methods Used

A co-ordination of all agricultural workers' efforts were combined along with the help of the Agronomy Committee through the use of meetings, local radio programs, newspaper articles and by personal contacts. These were most helpful in accomplishing the agronomy objective.

The Granges and Ruritan Clubs helped in locating some of the demonstrations and by informing their members of various recommended practices. Seed and fertiliser dealers supported the Agronomy Program through advertisements and pasture contest. Several specialists assisted with demonstrations and meetings.

D. Results

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1. Pasture

The Agronomy Committee was most successful in its pasture management program considering the drought again this year through the County Pasture Club. There were 43 farmers who made application for the club. The drought hindered several of them with poor stands; however, 30 received certificates of membership. The judges required a farmer to earn 78 points out of a possible 100 points for membership. Emphasis was placed on all phases of pasture seeding and management through local papers and radio, with special emphasis on summer supplementary pasture and late fall and winter.

The Nottoway County Pasture awards were made on Monday night, August 9, 1954, at a joint picnic meeting of the Blackstone and Burkeville Ruritan Clubs at Goodwyn's Lake. All farmers eligible for the Virginia Pasture Club were their guests.

Dr. H. L. Dunton, Head of the Agronomy Department of VPI, was the principal speaker. He reviewed the progress made by Nottoway farmers in crop production and standard of living in the last 12 years. He commended the Ruritan Clubs for their Rural-Urban relationship.

In discussing pastures, Dr. Dunton stressed the need for using several different pasture mixtures to lengthen the grazing period. To have an insurance against drought, he stated that most of the hay needs should be made in the Spring and early Summer.

The top six pasture farmers received prizes in the form of fertilizer which was made available by Planters Warehouse and Blackstone Guano Company of Blackstone; Clay's Market of Crewe; and The Boswell Company of Burkeville. The winners were as follows: First - M. W. Gracey; Second - W. B. Longmire; Third - George Hallett; Fourth - H. E. Williamson; Fifth - W. S. Green; and Sixth - G. F. Jones.

Other farmers to receive Virginia Pasture Certificates were: J. W. Martin, O. G. Wooten, J. L. Farmer, Borum Morris, J. W. Morris, S. E. Jerrrell, Rufus Smith, R. S. Smith, E. L. Stables, P. H. Fitzgerald, R. L. Krieder, Dick R. Forrester, George Ritchie, Shannon Sutphin, R. C. Deuss, J. W. Coleman, B. W. Reams, N. B. Allen, S. F. Sanger, J. P. Irby, H. C. Irby, Jack Irby, Robert Thomas and J. W. Stephenson.

The Rules and Regulations of the Nottoway Pasture Club are as follows:

- a. Any farmer owning, renting, or leasing land within the boundaries of the county is eligible to enroll in the Nottoway County Pasture Club.

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- b. Enrollment will be done by written application including a description of the location of the farm to be turned in by November 1.
 - c. Farmers who enroll in the Club will automatically become members of the Virginia Pasture Club and may qualify for a certificate issued by this organization.
 - d. The pasture must be a mixture of grasses and legumes that will provide grazing for one animal unit per acre for the equivalent of at least 200 days on at least 5% of the open land on the farm, or one acre, whichever is larger. (For hogs or poultry, it may be composed of legumes only.)
 - e. Judging will be done by a team of two disinterested persons, including at least one person trained in technical agriculture, by use of a score card prepared for this purpose. Individual scores will be averaged and adjusted for the final score.
 - f. Judging will be done between May 15 and June 15, 1954; and all farms will be judged within as short a time as possible after it is started.
 - g. While it is suggested that careful consideration be given to seed mixtures, lime requirements and fertilization practices recommended by experiment stations and the Agronomy Department of the VPI Extension Service, the amount or kind of seed, fertilizer and lime used will not be considered in the score, - only the visible results obtained.
 - h. Money or commodities offered for prizes will be divided into six places.
 - i. All pasture land used in the grazing system may be considered by the judges, regardless of when it was seeded, provided it qualifies under rule d above.
 - j. Pastures should not be overgrazed, while on the other hand it should be used to capacity in order to receive maximum returns on investments made. An "insurance area" seeded to orchard grass and lespedeza or a supplementary pasture of sudan grass and soybeans, which may be used for pasture or for hay if not needed for pasture, should be provided. While this is not a rule, it will be given consideration in the farm score.

The Pasture Score Card is as follows:

PASTURE SCORE CARD
 Nettoway County Pasture Club

Points to Consider	Perfect Score	Farm Score
1. Acreage adequate to provide continuous pasture during normal season for live-stock on the farm for a period of 200 days.	20	
2. Supplementary grazing. Fall, Winter and Summer	20	
3. Pasture management - rotation, clipping, liming, fertilization and overgrazing, farm appearance.	15	
4. Stand of desirable grasses and legumes and apparent grazing capacity of area involved.	10	
5. Acreage sufficient for size of farm and farming program. (5% of open land or 1 acre whichever is larger.)	10	
6. Proper land utilisation - Steep, rough or poorly drained land not suitable for cultivated crops has been used.	10	
7. Pasture being fully utilized to assure proper returns on investment.	5	
8. Properly fenced; water available and convenient.	5	
9. Provisions for catching, separating and loading stock or for milking and handling milk on dairy farms.	5	
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The drought delayed fall seedings, and many farmers did not seed fall pastures until after October 15th when "Hurricane Hazel" brought between 2 and 3 inches of rain. Farmers were given until October 31st to seed fall pastures under the ACP Program, and little of this practice was carried out before October 15th; but most of it was reported complete by October 31st.

A report of the County Pasture Program was sent to the Southeastern Extension District to be entered in the Pasture Contest of the National Fertilizer Association. Nottoway County won this contest in 1953 and has a nice trophy displayed in the County Agent's Office.

The five Plantfood Institute Pasture Fertilization Demonstrations were continued. They are set up on the farms of W. A. Bristol, Wellville; Robert Booth, Blackstone; Victor Johnson, Crewe; Claude Taylor, Burkeville; and Robert Thomas, Blackstone. These are well distributed over the county and are showing up well considering the dry season.

2. Tobacco

An irrigation demonstration on flue-cured tobacco was conducted on the farm of E. C. Ellett, Jr., 2 miles north of Jennings Ordinary. This system was powered by electricity, and the crop was watered about three times. The average electrical cost of operation per acre was \$1.30 per application. His irrigation equipment unit cost about \$2,000.00, and his pond construction cost was \$2,067.00. He is satisfied with the increase in production and the price increase on the market floor. The increased income on his 17 acres will more than pay for the equipment.

Mr. Ellett made the following observations:

- a. He got best results by applying water in evening.
- b. He used more water during day.
- c. Irrigation should be done before cultivating.
- d. The ground should be wet before putting dirt to the tobacco.
- e. Irrigation pays most between setting and topping time.

Mr. Ellett also conducted a fumigation demonstration for the control of Root Knot Nematode. Due to the drought, this demonstration was not successful enough for a field meeting.

The committee hoped the fumigation and irrigation demon-

strations could be joined into one demonstration. As this situation could not be found, only one of each was set up. They were the two demonstrations previously discussed.

There were 79 Nottoway farmers who attended the Nottoway Tobacco Meeting held February 17th, in the Nottoway Court House. Mr. S. B. Fenne, VPI Specialist, discussed the tobacco diseases and their control with the group. Mr. G. R. Mathews, also a VPI Specialist, discussed plant bed management and late recommended practices for an overall program. This meeting included both flue-cured and fire-cured tobacco discussions.

There were four boys to conduct the special 4-H Tobacco Project in the Junior Tobacco Show and Sales Contest held in Kenbridge. This is discussed further under 4-H Project Work.

3. Other Phases of Agronomy

A meeting to kick off the county program of more efficient use of lime, seed and fertilizer was held on July 23rd for seed, fertilizer and farm machinery dealers. Mr. G. R. Epperson, Associate Extension Agronomist from VPI, gave an explanation of the value and use of fertilizer as well as the seed and fertilizer recommendations for fall seeding of pasture, alfalfa and small grains. This was followed up with articles in local papers, discussions at farm meetings and radio talks on fall seeding recommendations. The 1954 ACP Program has helped farmers realize the value of proper liming, seeding and fertilization as well as the financial help it has given them. Many of these dealers ran ads on fall seeding recommendations and passed out soil sample boxes and sheets for them to take soil samples before seeding.

Much credit can be given to the 1954 ACP Program for getting farmers to take their own soil samples. Only on special problems was the Agent called on for taking soil samples. The office secretary has helped the Agent in many cases with soil samples by encouraging farmers to take their own samples and explaining to them how to take them from directions on the back of the soil sample record sheet.

There were many farmers to attend the Tobacco Research Station at Chatham on the Field Day event. A carload of farmers attended the Middleburg Pasture Field Day and Southside Station Field Day.

The drought came too late to affect the small grain crops; however, the corn crop was reduced by at least 50% and tobacco about 40%. Hay crops were reduced 50% to 60%, and many farmers are already short of feed. The County Board of Agriculture and County Board of Supervisors requested disaster aid.

There is still a definite need for farmers to plan their

crops on the soils best suited rather than where they are now growing them. A meeting for the purpose of discussing the many changes of the ACP Program is needed.

© II. DAIRY

A. Situation

Due to the shortage of labor, many dairy farmers are having to reduce their herds or buy more feed. Dairy farm numbers are still on the increase; however, there is much need for more profitable management practices. There is a need for more silos and a sounder yearly forage program on most dairy farms.

B. Objectives

1. To hold a 1 day dairy school.
2. To stress the need for drought insurance crops.
3. To put special emphasis on a year round forage program.
4. To continue to stress the need for calthood vaccination.
5. To work for more participation in county livestock show, especially with 4-H Clubs.
6. To promote Artificial Breeding.

C. Methods Used

Extension specialists have helped the County Dairy Program with dairy meetings and other special events. The members of the Dairy Committee assisted the Agent in personal contacts, tours, and meetings as well as publicity work in local papers, radio and demonstrations.

D. Results

Much emphasis has been placed on promoting Artificial Breeding. Joe Duarte, our local inseminator, is now working in his second year with the Nottoway Breeding Association. An agricultural graduate of the University of Massachusetts, he is well qualified and often recognizes problems and corrects them before trouble starts. He is getting good conception rates, keeping accurate records, and increasing the number of cows bred over the previous year almost double. Twelve new members have been added, and most of the debt has been paid off.

Joe has done an excellent job of publicizing the Artificial Breeding Program with frequent articles in local papers, and he has appeared on several radio programs. He set up display booths

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at the local fairs in Lunenburg, Wottoway and Amelia Counties.

Instead of having a one day dairy school, a night dairy meeting was held to discuss dairy diseases. Dr. S. L. Kallison, Extension Veterinarian, lead the discussion on Brucellosis, Blackleg, Mastitis, and other diseases to about 30 farmers.

As a result of the dairy meeting on diseases, Dr. Kallison visited several dairymen with the Agent; and three Mastitis Control Demonstrations were set up in the County. These demonstrations were well distributed over the County on the farms of C. P. Lewis, west of Crewe, P. H. Fitzgerald, near Crewe, and H. E. Williamson of Wellville. Tests were run on milking, and new milking procedures have been recommended for these dairymen to follow. Follow-up tests will be made later to show reduction of mastitis under new procedure.

Most County dairymen are using drugs to control mastitis instead of following sound milking and dairy management procedures. Continued emphasis should be placed on year round forage program.

Due to two years of drought, farmers showed much interest in drought insurance crops and the year round forage program. Many news articles were published in local papers, talks were made on radio, and recommendations were sent to local Granges for discussion. Many farmers seeded supplementary summer pastures who had never seeded them before. Mr. J. W. Stephenson, a dairyman near Blackstone, seeded his first and said "he would never do without supplementary summer pasture again". A large number of inquiries have been made for Fall and Winter pastures as a result of publicity on this topic.

More and more dairymen are now practicing calfhood vaccinations. Scheduled county vaccinations were held in February and June before the state removed its support in this program. Since that time, at the suggestion of the local veterinarian, farmers have been reminded of the scheduled month and that they should contact the veterinarian themselves. No complaints have been received on this procedure.

The County Dairy Show, held in connection with the Blackstone Farmers' Days, was the largest and most successful yet to be held with 33 animals shown. Mrs. E. B. Agnew and Sons of Burkeville won the Champion Guernsey award again this year. Bickie Forrester, a h-h Club member, won the Champion Holstein award. The quality of animals shown this year was most outstanding, and several well known herds participated for the first time. M. F. Elmore, Associate Extension Dairyman, was the judge for this show.

The Southside Milk Producers Association, Incorporated, has spent a very active year in hearings before the State Milk Commission in the interest of all their milk producers. Due to

the Association's aggressive action, all markets appeared before the Commission; and most of the reduction in milk prices was restored. The Association is now opposing a move on the part of Birtchard Dairy to move the bases of the producers from Norfolk to Amelia. If the Association can get a favorable decision on this matter, they plan to start delivering milk to Norfolk in tank trucks. Seventeen members have definitely signed to put in Cold-wall farm tanks in order to do this. As a result of contract bids for hauling this milk, the low bids received were 47.9 cents and 49 cents per hundred weight which is quite a reduction from the present 85 cents per hundred weight charged by Birtchard.

III. LIVESTOCK

A. Situation

Due to the drought and the low beef prices, many beef farmers are facing drastic financial difficulties. Many of them need a more balanced forage program and more sheep and possibly some hogs on most cattle farms would be profitable.

B. Objectives

1. To hold a Livestock School in February.
2. To set up a list of available sires of good breeding.
3. To emphasize to the County Beef Cattle Association the need for adopting a county bangs program.
4. To participate in the 1954 Farmers' Days Livestock Show.
5. To continue to emphasize the use of calthood vaccination.
6. Emphasize to farmers the value to sheep and hogs as additional income.

C. Methods Used

These objectives were carried out through the help of the Livestock Committee, Beef Cattle Association, farm and civic organizations, by news articles in local papers and radio stations and by circular letters and personal contacts.

D. Results

A Livestock School was held on February 3rd in connection with the Beef Cattle Association. All beef cattle producers were invited. Curtis Mast, Extension Animal Husbandman, and John Shoulders, Associate Extension Agronomist, outlined the various ways the beef cattle farmer could stretch his feed to last through

the Winter. There was some discussion on management and diseases of beef cattle. This meeting was attended by 23 farmers.

As yet, a successful way of keeping a list of available sires of good breeding has not been initiated. The farmers want the information, but they won't keep information on their own sires or get it to the office which is needed to make this a successful list.

A meeting of beef cattle producers was held in May to discuss the need of a county bangs testing program. This meeting was poorly attended, and those farmers present were either already testing or only had a few head of beef cattle and were already practicing calfhooed vaccinations. Several producers are still in hopes of getting sufficient interest worked up among beef cattle producers to initiate the program in 1955.

The Farmers' Days Beef Cattle Show was short in number this year. Only 17 head of beef cattle were exhibited. Two herds that exhibited last year were sold due to the low prices. There was some lack of interest shown in this year's show. Hugh Henderson, Associate Extension Animal Husbandman, judged this show.

The County scheduling of calfhooed vaccinations was discontinued in July when the state stopped financing this program. It was felt most of the farmers were using it, and they will now be responsible for getting the vaccination done themselves. This step was made at the suggestion of the local veterinarian and the beef cattle committee. As yet, no complaint has been heard.

There were 45 calves consigned and sold through the Petersburg Feeder-Calf Sale. This sale had many more calves than were expected, and Hurricane Hazel blew up the day of the sale to keep a lot of buyers away. As a result, sale prices averaged less than any previous Petersburg sale.

The Blackstone Wool Pool was held on May 18th which was about two weeks earlier than in 1953. There were 9,655 net pounds shipped through this pool coming from Nottoway, Amelia, Lunenburg and Brunswick Counties. The largest shipper last year, Frank Davis of Blackstone, was unable to get his sheep sheared in time for the pool. He later took his 1,048 pounds to Harrisonburg. His wool, plus the amount shipped in the pool, shows a 2,820 pound increase over the 1953 pool which was 7,883 pounds. Farmers were advanced 45 cents a pound for the weight of their wool in Blackstone, and it was shipped direct to the United Wool Growers in Harrisonburg.

IV. POULTRY

A. Situation

Too many county farmers are specialized with one main income

and could profitably use poultry on their farm as an added income. The marketing facilities for broilers and eggs should be improved.

B. Objectives

1. To hold a poultry school and tour.
2. To continue poultry demonstrations and add at least five new demonstrations in both the Grow Healthy Pullets project and the Farm Flock project.
3. To stress to farmers starting poultry units to construct for 5000 broilers or 400 layers so as to have a profitable unit.
4. To stress to farmers and publicize the use of pasture and range shelters for growing pullets.
5. To continue the special 4-H Club poultry project.

C. Methods Used

Feed dealers, local hatcheryman, Granges, Home Demonstration Clubs and Poultry Committee helped to accomplish the work done on poultry during the past. Publicity given poultry work through local papers and radio kept the program before the people.

D. Results

An excellent program was planned and conducted for the poultry school and tour in June by the following extension specialists from VPI: Denver Bragg, Associate Extension Poultry Husbandman; G. D. Kite, Associate Extension Agricultural Engineer; Er. R. J. Krueger, Associate Extension Agricultural Economist; and L. W. Herrick, Jr., Associate Extension Poultry Husbandman. This event was attended by only a small number of poultrymen and 4-H poultry members due to a conflict with Vacation Bible Schools in almost every section of the County. The local hatcheryman has requested the same program for a meeting of his flock owners.

A number of farmers went into the broiler business early in the year as a supplemental income to their tobacco, beef or dairy income; however, many of them now have empty houses due to the low price of fryers. Most of these units were erected for 5000 capacity.

There were 10 poultry demonstrations carried in the Grow Healthy Pullet Project. Four of them were new demonstrations. Fourteen poultrymen were conducting Farm Flock Demonstrations during the past year. Many of the last year demonstrators received scores of 95 or more on the management score card and were replaced with new demonstrators this year. These new demonstrators

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were secured with the help of feed dealers and the local hatcheryman.

The use of pasture and range was stressed through the poultry demonstrations, articles in local papers, radio programs and through circular letters.

Two new h-H Club members were added to the h-H Breeder project making six now in the project. These members sell eggs to the local hatcheryman. They are scored as young birds and again as breeder flocks, making excellent poultry demonstrators. Patsy Williamson and Herbert Mayton have built and moved their flocks into new laying houses during the past year. This project is sponsored by Clay's Hatchery of Blackstone and Clay's Market of Crewe.

There was a poultry show held in connection with the Blackstone Farmers' Days, but not too much interest was shown in it.

There is a definite need for a market out for poultry in this area as the transportation cost to market makes it almost impossible for poultrymen to compete with other areas near markets.

V. FORESTRY-WILDLIFE

A. Situation

Two thirds of Nottoway County is in timber most of which has a below average sale value. Hardwood growth is a grave problem. Many sawmill operators have abandoned operation due to the shortage of saleable timber. Much of this woodland does not afford enough feed and cover for wildlife. In 1953, 1400 plots of wildlife seed were planted by the County and Game Commission.

B. Objectives

1. To stress the planting of seedlings in January and February - get 90,000 seedlings planted if possible.
2. To publicize and educate to reduce forest fires in February and March.
3. To have Forestry Committee to select a tree farm in April and May.
4. To publicize the Seed Tree Law.
5. To encourage farmers who have timber for market. To mark timber.
6. To publicize ACP payment for forestry improvement.

7. To encourage the planting of wildlife plots in the County and assist game warden in receiving requests for plots to be planted.

C. Methods Used

The Agents were assisted by forestry specialist, Soil Conservation personnel, Virginia Forest Service personnel, County Game Warden and members of this committee to encourage the planting of seedlings, to plant wildlife plots, to publicize the control of forest fires and the Seed Tree Law. Aid was also given by local papers, radio stations and farm and wildlife organizations.

D. Results

There were about 125,000 loblolly pine seedlings planted in the County during the year. Most of these seedlings were planted by Joe Terry of Burkeville, 1953 tree farmer who is a pulpwood dealer with a 1000 or more acres of forest. Since 1921, some 528,000 seedlings have been planted according to Virginia Forest, Incorporated.

Mrs. A. G. Ingham of Wellville was selected by the Forestry Committee as the County Tree Farmer for 1955. As yet, we have not received approval by Virginia Forest Incorporated. She, as well as her husband before his death, has practiced selective cutting and many other recommended forestry practices.

Many radio programs and news articles in local papers were given in an effort to reduce forest fires and publicize the Seed Tree Law. The County Fire Warden appeared on several organizational programs in regard to controlling forest fires and explaining the Seed Tree Law. There was a large number (22) of fires in 1954, but less acres (150) of forest land burned over than in 1953.

The explanation of the 1954 forest improvement practice under the ACP program was discussed by the County at all three Granges. The timber marking service of the Forest Service was also discussed with these groups for farmers who wish to market timber. Several requests for marking were referred to the Forest Service.

There were 800 wildlife plots actually planted under the supervision of the Game Warden and financed by the State Game Commission, the County Board of Supervisors and the two wildlife associations of the County. These plots have since been scored; and Hottoway County's plots, according to the Game Warden, led the state in the number planted and the quality of the plots growth which had come up. The Agents and the County Soil Conservation personnel assisted in taking requests of farmers wanting plots planted on their farms.

The forestland of the County needs a lot of spot seedling planting, and some areas need complete plantings.

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VI. HEALTH

A. Situation

There is a shortage of medical services in the County. Lower income people are not observing sanitation laws nor are they taking advantage of the free services offered them. Since children are our most important concern, there is a need for our local organizations to make an effort to reach families who are not able to improve their health status.

B. Objectives

1. To recommend that families have their well water tested.
2. To hold discussion meetings of family sewage systems.
3. To urge all civic clubs having suppers to require proper facilities for serving meals.
4. To assist in securing financial assistance for the indigent to receive dental correction from either a dental clinic or private dentist.
5. To establish a County Health Loan Closet.
6. To have organizations assist low income people with transportation to receive aid through the county physical defects program.

C. Methods Used

The Agents assisted the County Health personnel with publicity and meetings. Civic organization help was secured to help many needy cases and with publishing the program. The Health Committee took an active part in all phases of the program.

D. Results

There were 241 water samples taken from home water supplies during the year and 58 septic tank installations approved as a result of the work of the committee and publicity given.

The County Health Office sent out bulletins on requirements for proper facilities in serving meals to all civic organization presidents asking them to check on their eating facilities. Three restaurant permits were temporarily revoked until they met the minimum requirements.

There were 207 dental corrections made by private dentists in Creve all of which required financial assistance. The Creve Kiwanis, PTA and Jr. Woman's Club financed this program which

required \$422.00. Some assistance was given to needy cases in other sections of the County.

As yet, no County Health Loan Closet has been set up. There is no room available for the storage of such equipment; however, several organizations have some available equipment that is being used for needy cases. The Welfare Department also has some equipment being used.

There were 78 patients taken to Farnville, some 25 miles away, to the clinic there through the County Physical Defects Program. The Lions Clubs of Crewe and Blackstone have given such financial assistance to this program, and other organizations have helped furnish transportation to this clinic which is held at 9:00 A.M.

In addition to the support of the County Physical Defects Program, the Blackstone Lions Club has financed one cornea transplant and three eye correction operations costing about \$2000.00.

The Town of Crewe adopted the "Recommend Milk Ordinance" giving authority to the County Health Department to enforce the requirements. Both Crewe and Blackstone now have this ordinance, and milk samples are collected each month for testing at the State Laboratory.

There were 21 community meetings attended by Health Department personnel where lectures, talks or movies on health were given.

There is a definite need for a dental clinic for school children, and financial assistance is also needed in many cases.

VII. YOUTH

A. Situation

There is a drastic need for more active local leaders for the h-H Clubs. The many school and community activities make it very hard to secure new h-H Club members or to hold the present members. The older youth groups are not being reached.

B. Objectives

1. To secure active leaders for h-H Clubs.
2. To have club tours of club members' projects during the Summer.
3. To get more parents interested in h-H Club work.
4. Encourage older youths to join Granges.

C. Methods Used

The youth work this year was done with the help of the County Committee and members of local Granges acting as leaders assisting the Agents and Granges with these objectives.

D. Results

Progress has been made in securing more active leaders for the 4-H Clubs. Clubs sponsored by the Granges and meeting out of school time have obtained good leaders. The Burkeville Club has several persons interested in working with them as leaders. We still need some good leaders in the clubs at Crewe. At a meeting of County civic and farm organizations, the Assistant Agent made an appeal to the representatives of the organizations for their help in supporting the youth of the County and encouraging their members to serve as 4-H leaders.

A number of the 4-H members individually visited other club members' projects to observe their practices and progress. On the County poultry tour, several of the 4-H'ers were along; and a club member's project was visited.

The Iron Bridge 4-H Club met jointly with the Iron Bridge Home Demonstration Club during the Summer and invited all parents of club members to the meeting so they might learn more about the 4-H Program in the County. There was a very fine turnout for the meeting. The Agents explained the club program and included among many things, county-wide activities, project work and record books. Several appeals were made on radio programs and in the newspapers for more support of club work by parents.

Little progress has been shown in getting more older youth as Grange members. The job is made more difficult by the fact so many of the rural youth are leaving the farm because of the draft, college attendance and procurement of jobs in cities.

VIII. HOME AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

A. Situation

There are many areas of the County that need the trash from highways cleaned up, showing there is a need for more interest to be taken in the appearance of the communities. There are still many farm entrances that much could be done to improve their appearance.

B. Objectives

1. To ask each Grange to work toward improving the appearance of the Court House grounds.
2. To urge Grange members to improve their farm entrances as a part of their Grange's Community Service Contest.

3. To help with publicity to prevent property damage at Halloween.
4. To hold a meeting on running water in the farm home emphasizing the types of water supplies and systems.

C. Methods Used

The help of local Granges, specialists and local papers were used in reaching these goals.

D. Results

Since the Deputy Sherrif has been using the prisoners from the jail as work details around the Court House grounds, there has been little need for any organization to put forth efforts to improve the appearance of the grounds.

Each of the Granges have put some effort on improving farm entrances. Several of the members have secured attractive entrance signs, and a number of other non-members in the communities have made their entrances more attractive.

The three Granges worked closely with the three consolidated schools, civic organizations and agricultural workers in carrying out a most successful Halloween recreation program. As a result of these efforts, very little vandalism was evident during Halloween.

A survey was made to determine the interest of the people of the County in installation of water systems in the home, and on the farms of those who did not have a system. Very little interest was shown in their program; therefore, no organized effort was made to promote it.

IX. PUBLICITY

A. Situation

There are two local newspapers that carry an "On the Farm Front" column each week. Extension radio programs are conducted on the two local radio stations once each week. These are used to publicize the Agricultural Program and 4-H Program of Nettoway County.

B. Objectives

1. To send copies of each committee report to committee members and local papers.
2. By use of weekly column in two local papers.

3. Articles covering special events in local newspapers by County Agents.
4. By use of two weekly radio programs by Agents.
5. By radio recordings of special Agricultural events and on-the-farm recording of outstanding practices by Agents.
6. Through discussion at Grange meetings and other Agricultural meetings by Agricultural workers and specialists.
7. Special promotional issues and radio programs will be carried on. Conservation, Club work, pastures and Farmers' Days.
8. To strive for close co-operation with all Agricultural Agencies.

C. Methods Used

These objectives were accomplished by the publicity committee co-chairman (one newspaperman and one radio man) working with Extension Agents, Chairman of the other Agricultural Committee and all Agricultural Agencies.

D. Results

The weekly columns in the two local newspapers have been maintained during the year, and about sixty-one special articles have been published in an effort to inform the people of the County. The Assistant Agent has started a weekly column on h-H Club work entitled "h-H Chatter", and several special h-H Club articles have been published. Also, weekly radio programs on the two local stations have been carried on reaching the people with the County Extension Program. Excellent co-operation has been received by both the newspapers and radio stations.

Special h-H Club issues on h-H Club work were published by both the Crewe Chronicle of Crewe and the Courier Record of Blackstone during National h-H Club Week in March. The Courier Record published a 16 page h-H Club Journal covering the club work in Nottoway and adjoining counties. Club members of all five counties received a copy of this Journal.

In October the Courier Record published a "Farmers' Days" edition in connection with the Blackstone Farmers' Days sponsored by the Retail Merchants Association. This issue published many agricultural articles and included a section on the "Land FFA Federation" activities. This Federation had its crop show in connection with Farmers' Days.

During the year the Agents secured a tape recorder for pro-

noting the County Agricultural and Home Demonstration Programs by free contributions from several agricultural business concerns. This recorder has been most helpful in publicizing "on-the-farm" events for radio presentations. It has saved many miles and hours of the Agent's time.

The local farm and civic organizations have been used as a means of informing the people of the latest practices and of publicizing many phases of the Agricultural Program. Timely recommended practices on phases of Agriculture have been sent to the Agricultural Chairmen of each of the Granges. Many favorable comments have been received on discussions held by these chairmen.

X. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTY AGENCIES

The offices of the agricultural agencies are located in the County Agricultural Building. This enables us to have a very close relationship and daily personal contacts.

The Agent works closely with the ASC Program, serving on the County Committee in an advisory capacity. Assistance was given this agency with publicizing various ACP practices and programs on the radio and in local papers.

The County Agent is a member of the Piedmont Soil Conservation District and serves as secretary. Much time was devoted to this worthy program. Instead of meeting quarterly, these supervisors met every other month this year. The yearly program consisted of acquainting the bankers, seed, fertilizer and farm machinery dealers, school superintendents and visiting teachers, and ministers. Their help was secured as follows:

1. Bankers for financial assistance to finance annual report.
2. Dealers to help distribute annual reports and support conservation through radio and newspaper ads.
3. Superintendents and teachers to assist in getting more conservation in schools.
4. Ministers attended tour and asked to preach and talk more conservation.

The Agents have assisted the SCS, ASC, PCA and FHA by referring farmers to their agencies when the desire needed their help. These agencies were also assisted on special programs and problems.

A count-wide meeting of civic and farm organizations was held to have the work of the County Agricultural Program and the work of the Agricultural Agencies explained to them. By doing so, they could take projects to their organizations that they could sponsor. A great deal of interest was shown and favorable comment heard. The Kiwanis Club and Southside Grange of Crewe are working jointly in sponsoring the County

h-H Achievement Day to be held in January. County-wide meeting was called at the request of some of the organizations.

The Agent was given the "Man of the Year Award" by the Lions Clubs of Nottoway County. This award was given for work done toward a Rural-Urban Weld and co-operative inter-county relationship on h-H Club work and adult work. (National h-H Club Week and Farmers' Days programs)

Four Brazilians (3 agricultural workers and an interpreter), along with W. P. Bradley of VPI, toured Nottoway County to observe the County Agricultural Program, the rural-urban relationship and the publicity given the Agricultural Program by the local papers and radio stations.

The Agents have worked with the two Vocational Agricultural Instructors located in the County on pig chains for FFA boys. Help was given on finding good sow pigs and in setting up management score cards.

XI. h-H CLUB ORGANIZATIONAL WORK

A. Situation

There are between six and seven hundred rural children in Nottoway County of club age, and there are about 215 club members.

There is a need for more adult leaders to help stimulate interest among members and to reach new members.

B. Objectives

1. To have each club participate in National h-H Club Week in March.
2. To have each club take part in the County-Wide Rural Life Sunday in May.
3. To have each club participate in County-Wide h-H Club Picnic in August.
4. To hold quarterly County Council meetings to make specific plans for county-wide activities.
5. To have Honor Club members to be active junior leaders of their local clubs.

C. Methods Used

All of the objectives were carried on by working with and through the County Council, Honor Club, Granges, Civic Clubs, and ministers and local leaders.

These objectives were goals of the County Council. The officers of the local clubs carried them to their clubs.

D. Results

The Nottoway County h-H Council officers for 1954 were: Ann Gracey, President, Lois Norton, Vice-President, Mary Kanipe, Secretary.

The Council met three times during the year to plan county-wide activities.

1. National h-H Club Week

The National h-H Club Week celebration was held jointly with four other counties at Blackstone and was quite successful. Many varied activities took place during the week.

Two county entrance signs were erected, one at the Dinwiddie line on 460 and one at the Amelia line on 360. Billboards on club work were erected in Nottoway, Mecklenburg, Brunswick and Lunenburg Counties. A TV program was carried over WTVR by the Nottoway h-H Club members, and 13 radio programs were carried during the week. A 16 page special h-H Club Edition, embracing the five counties was published, and many articles on club work were published in the local papers of the five counties. h-H Club posters announcing h-H Club Week were erected in public places in all five counties, and several windows displaying h-H Club work were exhibited.

Highlight of Club Week activities was the h-H Club Parade, led by the Pickett Band and the Pickett Pipers, and 16 floats sponsored by local business concerns in co-operation with h-H Club members helping with the construction of the floats. Nottoway County was happy to receive the group honor on floats and also the individual honor with Iron Bridge h-H Club float sponsored by the Blackstone Fuel and Supply Company.

The club members enjoyed recreation following the Camp Pickett Band Concert. Refreshments were furnished by the Blackstone Retail Merchants Association for the members who brought their lunches.

Several people expressed the comment it was the largest crowd ever seen in the Armory for a Band Concert. Over 700 people saw the Talent Show with contestants representing the five counties participating. Nottoway and Mecklenburg shared top honors in the Talent Show.

We are all looking forward to a bigger and better show in Lunenburg next year (1955).

2. Rural Life Sunday

County-wide Rural Life Sunday was held in May on the

Nottoway Court House lawn with good attendance by h-H members and parents.

Reverend W. C. Thomas, Methodist minister from Burkeville, led the service. Nine h-H'ers had a part in the service.

3. Game Night

A County-Wide Game Night was held in Blackstone in August with around 80 h-H'ers and parents present. Miss Joan Martin, an IPYE delegate from Ireland, showed slides and spoke on her homeland. Following this, the group enjoyed games and square dancing.

4. State h-H Short Course

Twelve h-H Club members attended the State h-H Short Course which was held at VPI in June. Eight of these members won the right to attend through some phase of project work.

5. District h-H Camp

Twenty-nine h-H Club members from Nottoway County attended the District Camp held at Camp Farrar, Virginia Beach, Virginia, along with club members from Amelia, Lunenburg and Mecklenburg Counties in July. The program was composed of athletics, swimming, vespers and evening program.

6. County h-H Achievement Day

Plans are being made for a County-Wide h-H Achievement Day to be held in Crewe on January 15, 1955.

7. h-H Talent Show

The first County "Share The Fun" Talent Show was won by Joan Clay on February 20th in the Crewe High School Auditorium. Joan is from the Crewe 7th Grade h-H Club and sang "Ricochet". Nancy Simonton and Susan Clay of the Bellefonte h-H Club won second place with their Ballet Dance. Carol Roberts from the Crewe 6th Grade h-H Club played a piano number, "Malaguana", winning third place honor while Jane Gracey of the Iron Bridge Jr. h-H Club also a pianist won fourth place playing "Dorothy".

These five h-H Club members represented Nottoway County in the Talent Show held during National h-H Club week in the Blackstone High School Auditorium on March 13th. Other counties who participated in that talent show were Brunswick, Amelia, Mecklenburg and Lunenburg. Seven of the eight local h-H Clubs had participants in the contest. Don Greene of radio station WSVS livened up the show as our Master of Ceremony. The Talent Show was judged by Miss Jean Butts, music teacher of Crewe,

Miss Jean Anderson, music teacher of Blackstone and Mrs. Martha Wheary, County Health Nurse.

The "Share The Fun Program" was sponsored by the U. S. Rubber Company, and Epes Supply Company of Blackstone furnished the prizes for this talent show.

8. Honor Club

The Honor Club members helped with the preparation for National h-H Club Week in the Spring and also h-H records.

The Club held a covered dish supper meeting in May. The highlight of the evening's program was the tapping of eleven new members into the club followed by an inspirational talk given by "Uncle Johnnie" Atkisson of McKenney. He challenged the new members to give the best they had in them for their h-H Club.

New members tapped into the Honor Club were Joyce Williams, Carolyn Lucy, Jackie Bowman, Charlotte Ann Williamson, Ben Hawks, John Prociase and Wayne Bishop. Other new members who were not present included Queta Redford Sullivan, Mary Page Thompson, Margaret Mathews and Charles Rogers.

9. IFYE Delegates Visit Nottoway

Enrique Peres, an IFYE delegate from Chili, spent 3 weeks in Nottoway County with the families of R. C. Dews and W. R. Fisher. A wonderful association was welded between Enrique and these two families. Enrique spoke at the Board of Agriculture Meeting, three Granges, three h-H Clubs, one high school assembly program, and the Lions Club. He stole the hearts of Nottoway people he met. Correspondence between he and the families he stayed with has continued since his return home.

Joan Martin, a delegate from Ireland, spent several weeks in the County in the home of the M. W. Gracys. She spoke and showed slides of her homeland before a county-wide h-H meeting.

XII. h-H CLUB PROJECT WORK

A. Situation

The club members of the County have more interest in livestock projects than crop projects. There is a need for a higher project completion and more participation in crop projects.

B. Objectives

1. Agent to assist members in selecting and developing projects he is interested in in October.

2. For Agents and leaders to visit all new club members' projects and as many other members' projects as possible during the year.
3. Leaders or Agents to thoroughly explain how to keep records and give any assistance needed.
4. Agent to require up-to-date records by members before they are permitted to go to District Camp in July.
5. Have junior leaders encourage project completion and get 100% project record books in September.
6. To have leaders and parents encourage members to enter their projects in the County 4-H Exhibit Day in October.
7. To have club officers and leaders strive for 100% attendance of club members at County-Wide Achievement Day Program in November.
8. To conduct project tour in summer months.

C. Methods Used

Much of the project work as possible was done in 4-H Club meetings. Other project instruction was done on the farm by Agents and local leaders.

D. Results

There were 195 projects carried by 103 club members. Successful livestock, poultry and crop activities showed the following results:

1. Swine - There were 15 projects enrolled with 10 completions.
 - a. Boy participating in the Sears Pig Chain this year did an outstanding job. Lewis Williamson, Route 1, Crewe, won top honor; Freddie Sanger, Elackstone, was second; Frank Miracle, third. Others in the project were Francis Thompson, Crewe, and Dexter Swicegood, Route 2, Crewe.
 - b. There were so many fine pigs produced by the chain that the Elackstone Ruritan Club purchased a number of gilts from the 4-H'ers to start another County Pig Chain for an FFA Chapter. Also, two of the boys sold boar pigs to other pig chains in neighboring counties.
 - c. Lucy Sanger, Route 1, Crewe, won a second place on her sow; Lewis Williamson won third place on his sow;

and Freddie Sanger first on his fat pig in the Farmers' Days Show. A total of 14 pigs were exhibited from h-H and FFA pig chains.

2. Dairy - There were 31 projects enrolled with 15 completions.

- a. The Dairy Judging Team participated in the District Contest and in the State Contest at VPI. Those on the team were Ann Gracey, Blackstone; Carolyn Lucy, Blackstone; Leslie Beatty, Crewe; and Charles Rogers, Blackstone. Also, an ineligible team practiced on dairy judging through the year. There were five club members on this team.
- b. Twelve club members showed dairy animals in the Dairy Show at Farmers' Days. Grand champion Guernsey award went to Fred Sanger, Blackstone; Grand Champion Holstein award went to Dickie Forrester, Blackstone. A total of 15 dairy animals were shown by h-H'ers in the Show.

3. Beef - There were 12 projects enrolled with 5 completions.

- a. Several business concerns from Nottoway County supported the third Annual Petersburg Baby Beef Show and Sale held May 14th by buying four of the baby beeves fed by h-H Club members.

The six h-H Club members from Nottoway County who sold animals were Lucy and Freddie Sanger, Hugh Longdore, Janet and Ronald Milton and Sammy Jerrell. Three of these calves graded choice and three graded good. The sale average was 32.8 cents per pound, one of the highest averages in the state this year.

Four of these baby beeves were bought by Bradshaw's Garage, Clay's Hatchery, Epes Supply Company, Church Street Grocery, Slaw's Sandwich Shop and Nunnally Service Station.

4. Poultry - There were 20 projects enrolled with 5 completions.

- a. One of the most outstanding h-H projects for the past four years has been the poultry projects. In 1950, Clay's Market sponsored a poultry project contest which assisted the h-H Club members in securing their chicks and also provided awards for the most outstanding projects. The purpose of this contest is to further h-H poultry work in the County both in number of flocks and the quality of the flocks.

The first year 750 chicks were given the five boys who started in the contest. As the club members became

more secure in their projects each year since, they have paid for their chicks; however, prizes are still offered.

In this contest, the first year a club member started with straight run chicks. After raising them until broiler age and size, all cockerels were sold as broilers. Some of them were sold in a poultry auction sale in Crewe and Blackstone. The top chicken sold for \$1.00 a pound. The other cockerels were sold on the regular market. The select cockerels and the pullets were kept for breeding flocks with the birds being tested and eggs sold to Clay's Hatchery.

The general requirements of the 1953 contest were:

- (1) The project will have 200 or more breeding pullets.
- (2) Must sell hatching eggs to some approved hatchery for at least 6 months of the year.
- (3) Must make a poultry and egg exhibit at the County Exhibit Day.

These projects were scored as a growing flock and as a laying flock by Denver Bragg, Extension Poultryman Specialist, during the year. During the growing flock scoring the points considered were care and management, health and sanitation, and housing.

The laying flock scoring points considered were housing, feeding practices, litter, health, sanitation, culling, appearance of flock, care of hatching eggs, hatchability, general management, improvements made during the year and exhibit at county show.

The club members participating in the contest last year were George and Jack Allen of Crewe, John Matthew and Buddy Naugle of Blackstone, Patsy Williamson of Wellville and Ben and Robert Hawkes of Wilson.

The 1953 poultry contest members and parents along with prospective members and their parents for 1954 were treated to a dinner meeting on March 14th by their sponsors at the Blue Room in Blackstone. The project was thoroughly explained for 1954, and prizes were awarded for 1953. First place winner was Patsy Williamson of Wellville. Her new poultry house built for her during the year turned the trick.

This award was \$20.00 for a trip to State Short Course,

District Camp or for feed and equipment. The \$15.00 value second place prize went to Ben and Robert Hawkes of Wilson, and George and Jack Allen of Crewe carried away the \$10.00 third place award. The second and third awards were to be in equipment or feed.

In 1954-55 this project is being extended to two neighboring counties, Amelia and Lunenburg. Two new project members in Nottoway for the coming year are Herbert Mayton and Reabel Allen of Crewe. This is the only project of its kind in the State.

- b. The Nottoway h-H Poultry Judging Team won third place in the District Judging Contest. Ben Hawkes of Wilson was high individual scorer of the entire contest with 700 points. Patsy Williamson of Wellville tied for fourth place among the individual high scorers.

The eligible team that competed from Nottoway was composed of George and Jack Allen, Crewe; Charlotte Williamson, Nottoway; and Ben Hawkes, Wilson.

The ineligible team that competed was composed of Patsy Williamson, Wellville; Robert Hawkes, Wilson; and Herbert Mayton, Nottoway. They were ineligible because of age. The eligible team participated in the State Contest at VPI.

- c. Ben and Robert Hawkes of Wilson exhibited the first place New Hampshire cockerel at the Atlantic Rural Exposition this year. They also exhibited a pullet. In the Farmers' Days Poultry Show, Ben and Robert showed first place New Hampshire trio; Herbery Mayton, Crewe, first place Plymouth White Rock trio; Jamie Walker, Blackstone, first place Rhode Island Red pullet; and Susan Clay, Blackstone, first place on Leghorn pullet and trio.
- d. Ben Hawkes of Wilson and a member of the Bellefonte h-H Club won an expense paid trip to the Virginia Poultry Federation Convention held at Hotel Roanoke on October 14 and 15. The scholarships were provided by the Virginia Poultry Federation, and Ben was among a group of 18 club members from the state to win the trip.

Ben won this trip by virtue of his outstanding work with his h-H poultry project. Ben is in his fifth year of club work and has had a breeder flock project for three years in partnership with his brother Robert.

5. Crops - There were 11 projects enrolled with 8 completions.

- 72
- a. Two Nottoway County 4-H Club boys walked off with first and second place listing and another took fifth place in the Kenbridge Junior Tobacco Show and Sales Contest held on October 27th.

With 31 4-H and FFA members competing, Robert Precise of Wilson won first place with a score of 85 out of a possible 100. George Allen of Crewe came in second with 79.7, and Allen Wilson of Burkeville, fifth. First place winner received \$100 bond; second place a \$75 bond; 3rd place a \$50 bond; 4th place a \$25 bond. Other winners received \$10.00 in cash.

This project was sponsored by the tobacco markets locally and by tobacco associates on a statewide basis. Each contestant can have no less than 0.3 of an acre and no more than 1.0 acre in his project. The boy keeps a very complete record book on everything he does including the number of recommended practices he carried out, all expenses involved and amount of time spent on the project. The tobacco was brought to a designated warehouse the day before the sale. The entire project was displayed on the warehouse floor to be judged. The score of the record book, the amount of yield and quality, and how well the tobacco had been prepared for market determined the winners. The following day the junior tobacco was sold in the usual manner.

The purpose of the contest is to encourage the youth to do the best job possible in producing and marketing the type of high quality tobacco that is in demand.

Each project is intended to be a demonstration of the things that go into the process of producing top tobacco. The contest is open to 4-H, FFA and NFA members.

- b. John Precise won second place with his tobacco exhibit and third with his corn exhibit at Farmers' Days. Lewis Williamson of Crewe won third place with his wheat exhibit at the show and exhibited corn at Farmers' Days as well as the Atlantic Rural Exposition. Dexter Swicegood of Crewe also exhibited corn at the Atlantic Rural Exposition.

6. Other Projects

- a. Freddie Sanger of the Iron Bridge Jr. 4-H Club set out over 1000 pine seedlings in a field on his grandfather's farm.

- b. Tommy Bradshaw of Blackstone attended the State Forestry Camp at Holiday Lake.
- c. John Procise of the Bellefonte Club won the County Tractor Driving Contest and participated in the District and State Contests.
- d. There were 103 enrolled in Safety, Tractor Maintenance, Room Improvement, Rabbits, Garden and Home Beautification.

With the increased interest and the expansion of the Club Program, a full time assistant would greatly strengthen the program. There is still a need for club sponsors and leaders.

EVALUATION OF YEARS WORK

The third drought year has definitely reduced the buying power of the farmers of the County. Many have had to secure financial assistance for certain farming operations.

As a result of the emphasis placed on supplementary pastures in the Pasture Program, many farmers used summer pastures for the first time. This put them in better condition for the drought.

The only effective agronomy demonstrations were the irrigation demonstrations. The tobacco irrigation demonstration showed that the irrigation equipment was paid for in full this season.

Dairy farmers are continuing to increase in their participation in the Artificial Breeding and Bangs Vaccination Programs.

In general, there was greater participation shown by farmers in the Blackstone Farmers' Days this year.

The interest of poultry breeder flocks has greatly increased through the h-H Club breeder flock projects. Due to the poultry outlook, many farmers have been discouraged from putting in broilers.

The National h-H Club Week and other county-wide activities have greatly increased the interest in club work as will be shown in the 1955 enrollment.

As a result of efforts on the part of the County Extension Program through public relation meetings, newspaper and radio publicity and personal contacts, the business concerns and urban people have been brought in a much closer relationship with farm people. The closing of Camp Pickett has also made them more dependent on the farm people. This was shown through their support of National h-H Club Week and Farmers' Days.

The farm organizations of the county are showing more activity than they have for several years.

