

Statistical Summary on County Agent Work for period from December 1, 1959,
through November 30, 1960:

a. Total days worked	238
b. Days devoted to adult work	107
c. Days devoted to DMW work	3
d. Days devoted to 4-H Club Work	128
e. Farm visits made	656
f. Office calls	547
g. Telephone calls	955
h. News articles prepared	57
i. Radio programs	15
j. Bulletins distributed	1,297
k. Adult meetings held or participated in	58
l. Attendance at such meetings	1,125
m. 4-H club meetings conducted by agent	121
n. Attendance at such meetings	1,969
o. Meetings held or conducted by local leaders	37
p. Attendance at such meetings	269
Program Emphasis	
Days devoted to:	
q. Extension organization and program planning	28
r. In-service training of agents	7
s. Crops	52
t. Livestock	47
u. Marketing; distribution; and service organizations	31
v. Soil and water conservation and management	21
w. Forestry and wildlife	9
x. Planning and management of the farm business	21
y. Farm buildings and farm mechanical equipment.	14
z. Community development and public affairs	6

- event. The Chamber is the sponsor and this agent serves as manager.
- G. Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair - This agent secures judges for the various agriculture departments and encourages county farmers and 4-H members to participate and exhibit.
- H. Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce - The agent is a member of the Agriculture Committee. This group helps plan and support agriculture activities in Fredericksburg and surrounding counties.
- I. Stafford Farm Bureau - Membership of 135 with active agricultural committee that requests considerable assistance from the county agent. This group helped pay expense of boys to the State 4-H Short Courses. The Farm Bureau is also a sponsor of IFYE.
- J. Stafford Ruritan Club - Membership of about 25, has good agricultural program during the year. Also, the Ruritan Club serves as co-sponsor of our community improvement program.
- K. Community Improvement Leagues - The Extension Service joins with the Ruritan Club in sponsoring these clubs. There are now five and they are very very active within their communities and county. One of the clubs, Hartwood, is also a sponsor of the IFYE project.

in dealing with individual requests.

Many of the activities and problems worked on are long standing as outlined in the Long-time Five Year Plan of Work. By working on specific phases in one year it is felt that more progress can be made. Other phases may be worked on in the coming year.

Due to the fact that the Stafford County Agent's office is located in Fredericksburg rather than at the county seat it is only natural that assistance is sought on a number of area activities which take place in Fredericksburg. This agent naturally assumes much of the guidance and educational work connected with these organizations and programs. Some of the activities are:

- A. Fredericksburg Artificial Breeding Association - Office in Fredericksburg and technician resides in Spotsylvania serving mainly Spotsylvania and Stafford Counties.
- B. This agent has begun a new term serving as secretary of the Tri-County Soil Conservation District.
- C. Dairy Herd Improvement Association - Office in Spotsylvania County. Two Stafford dairymen are members.
- D. Fredericksburg Feeder Calf Sale - An extremely well-run farmer-managed organization with all area county agents guiding and assisting.
- E. Tidewater Beef Cattle Association - This association sponsors our fat cattle sales and the yearling sale. A Stafford County farmer heads the organization. (The president is H. R. Greenlaw.)
- F. Fredericksburg Junior Fat Livestock Show and Sale - This agent works closely with the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce in planning this

Special assistance was given in the following ways:

1. Served as ex-officio member on the county ASC Committee and gave assistance to individual farmers on the program. Encouraged more farmers to participate. This agent helped to spread the word on what ACP had to offer through personal contacts, news articles and radio.
2. This agent worked with the Soil Conservation Service technician in preparing many of the farm plans in the county.
3. Close liaison was kept with the Virginia Forestry Service representative. He assisted with 4-H tree planting projects and with radio broadcasts.
4. The agent assisted the game warden in distributing wildlife seed mixtures to 4-H members. The agent also served as judge on scoring wildlife patches. Seven 4-H boys entered the contest sponsored by the Isaac-Walton League. Some 35 boys planted wildlife food plots.
5. The FHA Office serving the Fredericksburg area is located in Culpeper. The agent referred interested persons to the Culpeper Office and discussed cases with the representative of FHA on several occasions.
6. Secured Extension Specialists for program assistance for Stafford Ruritan Club and Stafford Farm Bureau.

VIII. Summary

Programs and activities reported on are just a part of the tasks worked on by the County Agent's Office. Considerable time is consumed

VII. Public Relations & Work with Other Agencies

A. Materials Handling Farm Tour

Interest in materials handling equipment was called to the attention of the agent by our local power supplier and the Southern States Co-Op. The committee met to consider the activity. This resulted in plans for a three-county materials handling tour to be held on November 30th and to be sponsored jointly by the Extension Service, Virginia Electric & Power Company, and the Southern States Cooperative. Stops in Stafford include: Silver Brothers - Hay drying, mechanical hay handling, feed grinding and handling; Hunter Greenlaw's - Spring and seep development, grain drying and grain storage.

Two Extension Agricultural Engineers will assist with the tour.

Final results cannot be reported at this writing but will be credited to the coming year's report.

B. Working with Other Agencies

Close working relations were experienced with the following other agricultural agencies and organizations:

<u>Agencies</u>	<u>Organizations</u>
ASC	Stafford Farm Bureau
SCS	Stafford Ruritan Club
Forestry	Fredericksburg Artificial Breeding Association
Game Warden	Fredericksburg D.H.I.A.
<u>Credit</u>	Tri-County Soil Conservation District
Farmers Home Admin.	Vocational Agriculture group
Production Credit	

dinner was held in May. The contest year runs from April through March of the following year.

Prizes were awarded to the following three community leagues:

First	-	North Stafford
Second	-	Hartwood
Third	-	Ramoth

The agent assisted and attended meetings of the community improvement leagues upon request from the group. Specialists and other professional assistance were secured for programs on several occasions.

VI. Farm and Home Development

Three farmers were assisted under the agricultural phase of this program during the year. One previously enrolled but dropped was further assisted.

Planning and Management of the farm was used as the basis for the Farm and Home Development program. One of the participating farmers has been active in the IBM Records Program during the year. Using a VPI plan he has constructed an addition to a 1200 bird laying unit, a disposal pit, added an egg washer, grading equipment, completed a new home, installed tile drainage and made considerable progress during the year. Mr. Loope from the Economics Department assisted him in the records analysis for the past year.

Intensive work with farm families has a place in the Extension Program. Great assistance can be rendered to these families even though they are not spot-lighted as being in the Farm and Home Development Program.

The program requires a lot of the agent's time and specialist help to get any degree of change.

service, improved farming and livestock production, and many others such as providing transportation for medical patients to and from treatment centers, awarding 4-H camp scholarships and giving food and clothing to needy and burned-out families throughout the year.

These groups are an active and important part of the Extension Program in the county.

The county Aqua Po recreation and swimming area was offered to the community improvement leagues for management consideration. After much discussion interested leagues (four) decided to set up a twelve member board of directors for administering Aqua Po recreation facilities. Aqua Po is now a corporation. A manager was hired and the camp was opened on May 30, 1960, and offered bathing and picnicing facilities for the season. The area was much improved and was well received by the people of Stafford county. Additional improvements are being planned for next year. The Extension Agents assisted the leagues in the organization of Aqua Po, in setting up the charter and incorporation procedures.

Community Improvement clubs in Stafford County are the medium through which a great deal of valuable work is introduced and accomplished. Projects carried by these groups include agriculture and homemaking activities, as well as those of a civic nature.

Each club sets up its own programs for the year. The Stafford Ruritan Club sponsors the judging program and invites representatives of the leagues to a dinner meeting at which time the winners are announced and prizes awarded.

The past year's judging was conducted in April and the awards

An Exchangee from Fairfax County presented an interesting program in the county.

7. Evaluation

The lack of adult leaders and interest of parents in the 4-H program are obstacles which must be overcome in order to develop a stronger 4-H program in the county. The majority of the 4-H boys cannot carry agricultural-type projects because they do not live on farms.

County Council meetings and other activities were not attended very well. Lack of transportation may be a problem for some.

The group project approach seems to be most effective with the work completed at the close of the school year.

Younger members are interested in short-time projects. Older members in the eighth grade and high school fit 4-H into activity period. Time and scheduling are problems when working under this system. The large school enrollment and crowded conditions are likewise a hindrance to the 4-H program.

The "Share the Fun" and Achievement Program was the most successful county-wide activity tried this year. The attendance was approximately 200.

V. Community Improvement Leagues

The five organized community improvement leagues have been active in the following projects: Roadside clean-up and beautification, youth recreation, county health drives, vacation bible schools, the development of recreational areas, home grounds beautification, providing facilities and equipment for the fire department, improved telephone

ELECTRIC	- Fred Blackburn Wayne Himes
ENTOMOLOGY	- Michael Clark Dennis Cooper Tommy Cropp Russell Sprinkle

Robert Harris was first place winner in the electric project in the county and attended the Electric Congress in Richmond. This agent attended, also.

5. 4-H Participation in Fredericksburg Fair

The County Council entered an educational display in the Fair. The exhibit took a fourth place award. In addition, the boys exhibited 4-H chain hogs, baby beeves, feeder steers and poultry chain projects. Crop, poultry and garden produce were also entered.

6. International Farm Youth Exchange Program

An interested 4-H member indicated the desire to participate in the IFYE program. The Extension Agents made arrangements for a meeting of interested persons and groups at which time information on this activity could be passed on to them. A member of the 4-H State Club Department, George Russell, also assisted. A committee consisting of Mrs. Ruth Harris, Chairman; Eliner Dickinson, Secretary, and Gordon Byram, Treasurer, were selected to head up the program. The group contacted interested civic and farm organizations. The Stafford County Farm Bureau decided to act as sponsor with the help and support of other county organizations. Wilson Greenlaw made application for participation in the program. To date final selection has not been announced.

This activity has created considerable interest and support among county organizations.

trained.

James Williams participated in the District Tractor Operator's Program and received a red award.

Raymond Tolson and Garland Shackelford participated in the district sheep shearing contest.

Garland Shackelford, Tommy Fisher and Bobby Greenlaw entered the district livestock judging contest.

County medals were awarded to the following boys:

FORESTRY	- Philip Williams
LEADERSHIP	- Charles Garrison, Jr.
SAFETY	- Rubin Noel James Haga
SWINE	- Randolph Beach, Jr. Ralph Shifflett Phillip Embrey Bobby Greenlaw
TRACTOR	- James Williams, Jr.
POULTRY	- Charles Garrison, Jr. Bobby Terry Gary Brannon
ACHIEVEMENT	- Hunter Greenlaw, Jr. Michael Randall
HOME GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION	- James Herbert Griffis - Pat Embrey Gary Newton Michael Teter
BOYS' AGRICULTURAL	- John Embrey Tommy Cropp Garland Shackelford Larry Fisher
CITIZENSHIP	- Raymond Tolson
BEEF	- Raymond Tolson Larry Fisher Tommy Fisher

Calves - Larry Fisher
- Tommy Fisher
- Raymond Tolson
- Chuck Tolson

Hogs - Tommy Cropp
- Tommy Fisher
- Larry Fisher
- Michael Tedder
- Bobby Greenlaw

Prizes were awarded for placing, showmanship and fitting. The Grand Champion animal was shown by Harrison Greenlaw and he also was given the "best fitted" award. The "showmanship" award went to Hunter Greenlaw, Jr. Hunter Greenlaw, Jr., also, had the best single and best pen of market hogs.

Animals were in good condition and sold to advantage.

The Stafford County Agent served as manager of the event.

3. Sears, Roebuck 4-H Poultry Chain

Stafford and Spotsylvania started a joint poultry chain during the year. Baby chicks were placed with the boys in April with option to pay costs when the pullets began producing.

Three Stafford boys enrolled. They were:

Bobby Terry - New Hampshire, straight-run
Gary Brannon - New Hampshire, straight-run
Charles Garrison - Leghorn, pullets

The project proved to be successful and plans are to expand it in the future.

4. 4-H Judging and Contests

A Land Appreciation team consisting of Walker Dent, James Williams, Raymond Tolson and Hunt Greenlaw placed first in the district land appreciation program held at Culpeper and then entered the state contest. Other ineligible members were also

Members, also, may carry additional projects if they desire. Projects were completed by the May 4-H meeting insofar as possible to conform to the school year.

Each club planned its own programs for the meetings. Clubs were encouraged to have at least four programs during the year. The agent assisted with and encouraged 4-H demonstrations as part of the program. Project work was discussed at each meeting. Home visits were made to assist and supervise projects as needed.

D. Special 4-H Projects

1. Sears, Roebuck 4-H Pig Chain

Six boys were enrolled with Hampshire gilts. Projects were scored in the field and the following awards were made:

First	-	Randolph Beach
Second	-	Phillip Babrey
Third	-	Ralph Shifflett
Fourth	-	Walker Dent
Fifth	-	Eddie English
Sixth	-	Gregory Glenn

The chain was not as successful this year as last. Two of the gilts would not breed.

2. Fredericksburg Junior Fat Show and Sale

This event was open to 4-H and FFA members in the counties surrounding Fredericksburg. The show was held on April 7th at the Livestock Auction Market with the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce serving as sponsor. Some nineteen baby beeves and 60 fat hogs were exhibited and sold. Stafford's entries were as follows:

Calves	-	Hunter Greenlaw, Jr.
		Harrison Greenlaw

B. Annual Achievement Program

The Stafford "Share the Fun" and Achievement Program was held on November 16th with approximately 200 in attendance. Twenty talent acts were entered with the following winners:

Dance - Kathleen Rude, Stafford Elem. 4-H
Comedy - Aria Burnett, Stafford H.S. 4-H
Music - Patricia Daffey, Stafford H. S. 4-H
Dramatic - Chuck Garrison and Raymond Tolson,
Stafford High School 4-H

The Stafford High School boys' club received the award for having the largest percentage of members present. Forty-two percent were in attendance.

The Ferry Farms Club, also, was awarded the trophy for being the outstanding club during the past year.

County medals were awarded by the Home Demonstration Agent and the County Agent to boys and girls for outstanding project work.

C. Organization and Project Work

Eleven 4-H clubs were conducted in six schools. Each club had elected officers, and each club carried a group project for the year.

Group projects were:

Wildlife - New Hope
- Ferry Farms, 4th & 5th

Forest - Ferry Farms, 6th & 7th
Appreciation - White Oak
- Geri Melchers, 4th & 5th
- Stafford Elem., 7th
- Stafford Elem., 4th & 5th

Entomology - Geri Melchers, 7th

Soil & Water - Stafford High School
Conservation

Home Grounds - Geri Melchers, 6th
Beautification- Stafford Elem., 6th

- (5) No clubs met goal of 4-H club officers at each County Council Meeting. Eight clubs had some representation at Council Meetings during the year.
- (6) Members from ten clubs attended camp. Boys attending 4-H Camp at Jamestown were: Phillip Barker, Bobby Blackburn, Fred Blackburn, Tommy Blackburn, Michael Clark, Dennis Cooper, Robert Cox, Tommy Cropp, Pat Embrey, Kenneth Fagan, William Fox, Jr., Robert Kesh, Donald Lambert, Danny Miller, Glenn Newton, Rubin Noel, Charles Price, Malone Schooler, Donald Satterfield, Jack Smith, Artie Verburg, Chip Worley, Harrison Greenlaw and Kenneth Wayne Williams.
- (7) 75 members attended the county 4-H Share the Fun and Achievement Program. A total of approximately 200 people, including 4-H'ers, their parents and friends, attended this program.

Six clubs had talent acts in the "Share the Fun" program

- (8) Nine clubs made displays for National 4-H Club Week. These consisted of posters and special school displays.
- (9) Six clubs had 50% of their members attending a Rural Life Church Service.
- (10) Four clubs had five project demonstrations during the year. Five others had one or more.
- (11) Most clubs improved in the way their meetings were conducted, however, further training is needed.
- (12) All eleven clubs assisted with some local charity drive.

Under this Achievement Score plan each club could earn 100 points. Ferry Farms Club was awarded first place with 76 points and was the recipient of a trophy.

The 4-H Council met twice during the year. The November meeting was devoted to organization, setting up the yearbook with objectives, planning the Achievement Program, and officer training. The May meeting was devoted to planning summer activities including the Short Course, Camp and the county fair exhibit.

Stafford Elem. 4th and 5th grade

President - Bobby Blackburn

Vice President - Kim Doxey

Secretary - Catherine Lawrence

Treasurer - Robert Green

Recreation Leaders -

Stafford Elem. 6th grade

President - Carolyn Perry

Vice President - Glorie Tyson

Secretary - Mary Pierce

Treasurer - Donna Cramer

Recreation Leaders - Richard Decatur and
Susan Dent

Stafford Elem. 7th grade

President - Linda Green

Vice President - Jarma Raines

Secretary - Pat West

Treasurer - Ross Decatur

Recreation Leaders - Bonnie Sears and
Cheryl Monroe

Stafford High School

President - Gloria Skinner

Vice President - Cheryl Knight

Secretary - Jane Brooks

Treasurer - Josephine Duffey

Recreation Leaders - Mary Anne Harris and
Charlotte Boswell

1959-60 CLUB OFFICERS

Gari Melchers 4th and 5th grade girls

President - Shirley Reeve
Vice President - Judy Garland
Secretary - Carol DeLano
Treasurer - Sandra Jones
Recreation - Brenda Eestridge, Bonnie Wyatt

Gari Melchers 4th and 5th-grade boys

President - John Snellings
Vice President - Larry Mitt
Secretary - Mickey Odham
Treasurer - Knobby Whittaker
Recreation - Robert Hicks, Wayne Hines

Gari Melchers 6th grade girls

President - Sandra Jones
Vice President - Betsy MacClarence
Secretary - Linda Huffman
Treasurer - Phyllis Cropp
Recreation Leaders - Esther Luton and Peggy Howard

Gari Melchers 6th grade boys

President - Mickey Courtney
Vice President - Malome Schooler
Secretary - Rubin Noel
Treasurer - Alvin Fines
Recreation Leaders - Floyd Curtis and Cecil Way

Gari Melchers 7th grade girls

President - Donna Stone
Vice President - Bonnie Burton
Secretary - Anne Courtney
Treasurer - Linda Courtney
Recreation Leaders - Vickie Blankenship,
Cynthia Burton

Gari Melchers 7th grade boys

President - Ronnie Silver
Vice President - Tommy Cropp
Secretary - Dennis Cooper
Treasurer - Emory Shover
Recreation Leaders - Glen Jenkins and Douglas Rose

Ferry Farms 4th and 5th grades

President - Chip Whorley
Vice President - Catherine Sebastian
Secretary - Alice Snellings
Treasurer - Retha Harris
Recreation Leaders - Cindy Covert and Brenda Heflin

Ferry Farms 6th and 7th grades

President - Donnie Lambert
Vice President - Bobby Kash
Secretary - Toni Pitts
Treasurer - Martha Hall
Recreation Leaders - Joyce Grigsby and Pat Harris

New Hope

President - Delores Thomason
Vice President - Mildred Ballance
Secretary - Ellen Beville
Treasurer - Debbie Whittaker
Recreation Leaders - Glenn Newton and
Patricia Southworth

White Oak

President - Peggy Boutchyard
Vice President - Carol Bullock
Secretary - Peggy Cox
Treasurer - Harris Spindle
Recreation Leaders - Sheila Fines and Alice
Synan

4-H Achievement Score Card

	Possible Points	Your Score
I. Records Completed by June 1st		
Girls' project records	14	_____
Boys' project records	14	_____
Secretary's book completed	3	_____
II. Attendance Record		
100% members at each meeting	3	_____
Adding 2 new members during year	2	_____
Four club officers at each County Council Meeting	8	_____
Five members attend 4-H Camp, 2 points per member with 10 point limit	10	_____
50% members attend county 4-H Talent and Achievement Program	5	_____
III. Activities		
Club have 3 talent acts in county program	6	_____
Celebrate National 4-H Club Week	6	_____
Having 50% of members attend Rural Life Sunday Service	6	_____
Program at 4-H Club Meetings	8	_____
Having 5 project demonstrations during the year	5	_____
Having orderly business-like meeting	5	_____
Assist with one or more local drives (March of Dimes, Mental Health, T.B., Cancer, etc.)	5	_____

3. Evaluation

Attempts at organized programs in this field have met with small success. Most home and garden owners do not recognize or anticipate needs until an immediate problem presents itself. More interest is apparent and better results are obtained by working with organized groups, such as, Community Improvement Leagues, Farm Bureau and 4-H clubs.

Due to the location of the Stafford County Agent's office in Fredericksburg requests are received from city residents. Such requests pertain to lawns, landscaping and gardening. These are handled on an individual basis with no attempt to an organized approach.

IV. 4-H Club Work

A. 4-H Council

The 4-H County Council makes its plan to conform to the school year as clubs are organized in the fall with the opening of school.

Council objectives and plans are set up and included in the Stafford 4-H Yearbook which is put in the hands of every 4-H club member. (A copy of the yearbook can be found on the following page.) This book was planned and outlined by a committee of council members.

The results of the 4-H Achievement Score Card, as found in the yearbook, are as follows:

- (1) 187 boys enrolled at the beginning of club year and 160 completed project work, or 85.5%
- (2) 227 projects were started and 195 completed, or 85%
- (3) Nine clubs completed and turned in secretary's books
- (4) Meetings were attended by better than 85% of members

d. Pruning and training

e. Landscape planning

2. Methods used and results

- a. A program using the VPI Extension Specialists was planned in March. Topics were to include: Seed bed preparation, plant propagation and cold frames. This program had to be cancelled because of a snow storm.
- b. One community improvement league (North Stafford) sponsored a program on diseases and pests of ornamentals and fruit trees using the County Agent and J. O. Howell and R. H. Gruenhagen, State Extension Specialists. Some 20 people attended.
- c. Fifty home gardeners were sent monthly garden suggestions.
- d. The agent gave individual assistance on specific disease and insect control problems. The radio and newspaper were used to spotlight recommendations for common problems.
- e. Monthly landscape notes were mailed to twenty persons.
- f. The radio and press were used eight times to give timely hints on gardening.
- g. More home owners are submitting soil samples for testing and are using the results as a guide in establishing their lawns.
- h. Problems in lawns and shrubs (dying or growing poorly) require considerable field work. By using the facilities of the soils laboratory and plant disease laboratory at our agriculture college we are often able to solve these problems.

Some ten farms were completely planned by request.

4. Evaluation

- a. Heptachlor-Fertilizer Mixtures were used on alfalfa with good results. Other materials were not as effective.
- b. Working through dealers and key farmers is effective. Many dealers do not have facilities to handle large selection of fertilizer analyses and seed varieties. As a result, the most popular are available.
- c. Field tours and demonstrations are effective but it is increasingly difficult to get good attendance. Many farmers are on a part-time basis and their regular job comes first. As a result the farm does not get top priority.
- d. Crop yields for the year were average. Drought hurt some grain yields (planting date was the determining factor). Soybean yields were not as good as expected. Hay conditioners and mechanical handling are gaining in popularity.

C. Landscaping, Home Gardening and Home Fruit Production

Considerable information is sought by people in the county and in Fredericksburg on gardening, home fruit production and landscape gardening. Many of these people do not have much experience in the field.

1. Problems and questions most often brought to the county agent are:
 - a. Plant propagation and cold frame usage
 - b. Insect and disease control
 - c. Seeding and care of lawns

- 150 acres of alfalfa seeded, 500 acres of pasture seeded and 800 acres of pasture improved. The acreage seeded to alfalfa in 1960 was larger than for the past several years.
- d. Mass media plus farm visits were used to give the latest insect control recommendations. Two circulars were sent to alfalfa producers giving weevil control recommendations. Information on residue problems was included.
 - e. Program in January included information on chemical weed control and information on insect control. Extension Specialists participated in the program.
 - f. Recommended variety list was distributed to seed dealers, professional workers and key farmers.
 - g. Emphasis on soil sampling was accomplished by press, radio, personal contacts and through the ASC office.
 - h. A farm tour was conducted in November emphasizing materials handling, preserving quality hay, grain and silage. Two Stafford farm stops were included in the tour to demonstrate adopted methods.
 - i. Value of the twelve-month forage program was emphasized at livestock and dairy meetings. The agent made farm visits stressing the importance of an adequate forage program.
 - j. The agent worked closely with the ASC and SCS in promoting good conservation practices. A complete soil analysis test was requested on all ACP practices. Most farmers accepted the Extension Service recommendations on ACP practices. The agent worked closely with SCS in conservation planning of farms.

- c. Insect and disease control of field crops, emphasis on new developments on control of alfalfa weevil
- d. Increase acreage of permanent covers including improved pasture and alfalfa
- e. Proper pasture management including clipping, fertilization, liming and sometime fencing
- f. Greater use of soil testing service
- g. Recognize value of timely and proper harvesting of grain and forage to improve quality

3. Methods used and results

a. A seed-fertilizer meeting was held in January to educate our dealers, professional agriculture workers, key farmers and agronomy committee on recommended varieties and amounts of seed and fertilizer. W. W. Lewis and H. L. Dunton of the Extension Agronomy Department assisted with the program. Some twenty people attended.

b. Farmers were encouraged to consider the economy of high analysis fertilizers. Dealers were encouraged to stock some. One dealer now has facilities for spreading straight material in any ratio desired.

Fertilizer usage for Stafford - Total 1009 tons with 41 tons of 0-10-20, 25 tons of 0-14-14, 30 tons of 0-20-20, 224 tons of 2-12-12, 43 tons of 3-18-18, 90 tons of 5-10-5, 448 tons of 5-10-10, and 99 tons of 10-10-10.

c. The radio, press and farm visits were used to encourage the seeding of improved pastures and legumes. Records indicate

- (3) Several larger producers have curtailed poultry operations considerably.
- (4) Most of the poultrymen are now buying their entire feed supply from commercial sources, therefore, they operate on very narrow profit margin. Home mixing may aid in cutting costs.

B. Agronomy

1. Situation

Most of the cash cropping is done in the coastal plain area of the county near the Rappahannock River. The piedmont area of the county is more suitable for grassland type of agriculture with cultivated crops taking secondary role. Crop needs are geared very closely to livestock and dairy production in the county.

Crops, in respect to acreage, rank as follows:

Pasture	-	15,307 Acres
Corn	-	2,660 Acres
Hay	-	5,113 Acres
Oats	-	1,353 Acres
Soybeans	-	1,115 Acres
Wheat	-	1,083 Acres
Barley	-	527 Acres

2. Objectives

The Agronomy Committee discussed the situation and set forth the following objectives and programs for emphasis in 1960:

- a. Use of recommended varieties
- b. Use fertilizer and lime in amounts and analysis needed

servicemen and laboratory facilities on disease and parasite control.

- (2) Monthly newsletters were sent to major poultrymen and all 4-H project members.
- (3) Building and arrangement plans were furnished upon request. One addition (800 bird capacity) was made using VPI Extension plans.
- (4) Producers were encouraged to use recommended strains from certified hatcheries.
- (5) Radio and press were used to inform producers and the public on (a) poultry economics (b) good management and culling practices (c) using automatic equipment and facilities (d) egg quality and sanitation
- (6) Personal contacts were made to advise producers on marketing eggs and good feeding practices.
- (7) The agent worked with one Farm and Home Development poultryman on IBM records analysis. Kenneth E. Loope, Agricultural Economics Specialist, assisted.

d. Evaluation

- (1) Sanitation and housing facilities continue to be the major problem. The type of egg marketing programs available do not encourage quality production.
- (2) Better markets are needed before much expansion in poultry production is likely to take place. Local eggs are sold to stores, delivered door-to-door and delivered to the Washington, D.C. area.

Others could profit through better production records. Programs on mastitis control and the production of clean milk were well received. Little mastitis trouble has been reported recently.

Dairy producers have not felt the agriculture price squeeze quite as sharply as other farmers. They continue to make adjustments for greater efficiency.

5. Poultry

a. Situation

Poultry production in Stafford falls into two categories, namely, (1) Farm or home flock (2) Larger commercial production. Broiler production is very limited with no large producers. There are several laying hen operations with over 1,000 birds. Eggs are sold directly to consumers, hucksters and other retail outlets.

b. Objectives

In working with the poultrymen the following problems and objectives were recognized:

- (1) Economical poultry units
- (2) Control of diseases and parasites
- (3) Using improved laying strains
- (4) Maintaining quality egg production
- (5) Adequate marketing
- (6) Cull unproductive birds
- (7) Proper arrangements and facilities

c. Methods used and results

- (1) The agent worked closely with poultry specialists, feed

dairy products.

- (5) Agriculture School was held in January including disease control and prevention and the use of feed additives.
- (6) Special emphasis was placed on selling only clean quality milk. The agent assisted with management problems by personal contact. Our dairymen were encouraged to be active in marketing association so as to obtain the best possible market.
- (7) Our dairymen were encouraged to participate in the Fredericksburg Artificial Breeding Program in promoting and using good sires. This group held the annual meeting in cooperation with Spotsylvania County in May.
- (8) The agent worked directly with dairymen in forage production. One producer established 20 acres of alfalfa for the first time. A summer field tour was not held as planned.
- (9) Demonstrations on the use of heptachlor were located on two dairy farms. Every grade A dairyman was contacted regarding the latest developments on alfalfa weevil control. Samples of hay for analysis (heptachlor) were taken from two dairy farms.
- (10) The agent made several follow-up visits regarding the completion of Grade B producers Dairy Survey.

c. Evaluation

The Stafford dairy program continues to be coordinated very closely with Spotsylvania County because of the same DHIA, Artificial Breeding Association and Marketing Association. Two of the seven Grade A dairymen are enrolled in the DHIA.

grain, sudan grass and other not needed for hay. Keep on alert for insect and disease affecting forage production

(6) Need for educational program on milk value as a food

b. Methods used and results

(1) Mastitis Control Program - The local dairy group endorsed the state mastitis control program. A mastitis control program was held in cooperation with Spotsylvania County with local veterinarians and representatives of milk plants. The program centered around control and precautions in the sale of contaminated milk.

Some 23 producers received a copy of the mastitis control circular each month.

The barn chart outlining twelve steps of good milking were distributed and posted in all grade A barns.

The agent made follow-up visits on the program.

A program was held in January which included the correct use of drugs and feed additives in milk production.

(2) DHIA records were used as a basis of culling. A DHIA analysis clinic was held in cooperation with Spotsylvania County. Our producers who are not in the DHIA were encouraged to use the same type of records as a basis of culling and feeding.

(3) Latest recommendations and new developments were sent directly to dairymen by circular letter.

(4) The radio and press were used to keep the general public informed on the dairy situation and milk products. We cooperated with the Dairy Council in the promotion of

shipper toward the goal of becoming an A grade producer.

Veal production is important in some small operations

1958 Dairy Survey Information

Eight Grade A Dairy Farms in the county with 412 cows or 51.5 cows per herd. January average milk sold per farm was 35,500 pounds.

Land and Feed Usage on Eight Grade A Dairy Farms

Hay	- 430 Acres	1.22 acres per cow
Silage	- 230 "	.55 " " "
Pasture	- 880 "	2.50 " " "

Total Crop and Pasture 5.88 acres per cow

March Level of Feeding

Grain and Concentrates	- 7.6 lbs. per cow
Silage	- 33.1 lbs. per cow
Hay	- 15.6 lbs. per cow

Dairy activities are limited due to small number of farmers engaged in this business. Problems outlined by the committee were:

- (1) Mastitis control and prevention
- (2) Need for reliable information on use of drugs and feed additives
- (3) Cull low-producing cows
- (4) Produce quality milk which in turn makes satisfied consumers. (Milk with odors, offensive taste or smell make dissatisfied customers.)
- (5) Need for high quality forage and grain including maximum acreage of alfalfa, temporary pastures such as small

- (3) Building plans, feed racks, etc. were furnished upon request. One pole barn was completed and one silage fence line feeding arrangement completed. Several producers modified facilities for more efficiency.
- (4) Fat cattle organized sales were continued at Fredericksburg during the year. Six such sales were held. Some 85 head were consigned by four Stafford producers. The agent accompanied by the committee made field inspections to assist producers in selecting cattle for market. Rations and marketing were emphasized among all feeders.
- (5) Radio, press and circular letters were used to emphasize the twelve month feeding program for livestock, area purebred sales and local marketing facilities. Numerous requests on parasite control were answered.

c. Evaluation

Farmers participating in the organized marketing program are well satisfied. Others do not want extra trouble and expense to produce for these marketing programs. Many producers are much concerned about narrow profit margin. Outlook information and efficiency are important to producers in making adjustments.

4. Dairying

a. Situation

One of the eight grade A dairy farms in the county dispersed during the past year. Several continue to sell barnyard milk. The agent has worked closely with one B grade

intermediate and bacon type hogs. The 4-H pig chain furnishes good quality stock.

3. Beef Cattle

a. Objectives

The beef program is centered around organized marketing.

The marketing committee proposed most of the following objectives for the year:

- (1) Work toward best possible market for feeder calves, yearling cattle and fat cattle.
- (2) Encourage producers to work toward quality and health requirements for organized Fredericksburg sales.
- (3) Control external and internal parasites.
- (4) Provide year-round feed supply utilizing improved pastures and home ground feeds to maximum extent.
- (5) Utilize labor-saving devices and good facilities.

b. Methods used and results

- (1) Five producers consigned 115 calves to the Fredericksburg Feeder Calf Sale. The goal of 100 was exceeded. Consignors held field tour to examine quality of breeding herds. The forage program was also emphasized on the tour. No Stafford calves were rejected upon arrival at the stockyards. This was the first time this has been true. Calves averaged \$24.93 with a total of 1,468 being sold.
- (2) Three producers consigned 90 head to the annual yearling sale in September. This goal was 85 head.

information and interest in feeder pig sales. A fair response was reported with only small number of producers interested at the present time in the organized feeder pig sales.

- (2) One producer attended several planning meetings in regard to organizing the Northern Virginia Feeder Pig Association. Due to the small quantity produced and the distance from the proposed market the Stafford producers have not participated further.
- (3) Swine Specialists and a Hog Farm Manager presented program of Modern Swine Production at the annual Fredericksburg Agriculture Program in February. Fredericksburg area swine developments including the feeder pig association were discussed. The program was well received but the attendance was small.
- (4) Six producers were assisted in procuring good breeding stock in addition to six boys in the 4-H pig chain. One new purebred breed was established. Producers were kept informed of purebred sales by posters, cards, radio and the newspaper.
- (5) Swine management with particular emphasis on parasites and diseases was spot lighted on the radio and in news articles.

c. Evaluation

Swine breeding stock has been improved during the year. There is considerable interest in cross breeding using

- (6) Five 4-H boys attended the sheep shearing school. They sheared about 25% of the county flocks. Raymond Tolson and Garland Shackelford entered the district sheep shearing contest.
- (7) All producers were advised on wool marketing through the press, radio and circular letter.
- (8) Producers were advised on timely marketing, were assisted in selecting lambs for market and were advised on proper forage and rations.

c. Evaluation

Sheep continue to be important as a secondary source of income on Stafford Farms. Possibly many more farms should consider sheep enterprises. Poor fences and dogs are among the obstacles to overcome. Progress has been made in the quality of breeding stock during the year. Six producers now have some purebreds with two consigning to the purebred sales. The wool marketing program has been successful.

2. Swine

a. Objectives

Swine constitute an important enterprise on many farms.

Activities investigated during the year were:

- (1) Good market for feeder pigs
- (2) Selection of desirable type breeding stock
- (3) Control of diseases and parasites
- (4) Market hogs at proper weights

b. Methods used and the results

- (1) A swine survey was conducted to determine production

- (4) Strive for early lambs and proper care at lambing time
- (5) Produce quality lambs
- (6) Develop good wool market
- (7) Use better quality replacement ewes and only good purebred rams

b. Methods used and results

- (1) Held sheep program in February with Sheep Specialist discussing quality lamb production and wool marketing. Approximately twenty county producers attended.
- (2) Three producers served on the wool marketing committee for the Fredericksburg Pool. This group decided on pooling arrangements, buyers and assisted with the pool. Ninety percent of the wool in Stafford was sold through the pool. The pool was held on June 2nd with a total of 11,358 pounds of wool consigned.
- (3) Eight producers were assisted with the selection of breeding stock. Six purebred ewes were purchased to start a 4-H Sheep Chain. Several culling and castrating demonstrations were held. Others were advised on the practice by letter, press and radio.
- (4) Parasite control continues to be a problem. Demonstrations, visits and mass media were used to give recommended control methods.
- (5) Four new flocks were started during the year. The economics of sheep production were pointed out in livestock meetings.

C. Facilities

Facilities available include dial telephone service; electricity; two major bus lines and local bus service; over 100 ponds, reservoirs and earthtanks; and recreational resources including fishing, hunting, camping, beaches and picnic areas.

II. Introduction

The Agricultural Extension Service is the educational arm of the U.S.D.A., therefore, educational methods and public relations are basic in reporting this year's summary of work. Agriculture Commodity Committees, Community Improvement Leagues, and 4-H activities will be included in this report.

The Stafford County Extension Staff consists of the Extension Secretary, Elinor Dickinson; Home Demonstration Agent, Kathleen Goodlee; and the County Agent, Richard C. Beck.

III. Commodity Activities

A. Livestock

1. Sheep

a. Objectives

The sheep committee, consisting of three producers and the County Agent, met and outlined objectives for the year. The following items were included in our objectives:

- (1) Need for more experienced sheep shearers
- (2) Practice culling flock, docking and castration of lambs
- (3) Improve control of parasites

livestock numbers and productive crop yields have remained near the same level.

Some statistics on livestock and crop production in Stafford County follows:

Livestock Numbers			Crops Raised in 1959
1959	1954		
4,617	5,099	Cattle and calves	15,307 Acres of Pasture
1,098	1,445	Milk Cows	2,660 Acres of Corn
2,092	2,017	Hogs and Pigs	5,113 Acres of Hay
1,042	664	Sheep and Lambs	1,353 Acres of Oats
29,902	39,019	Poultry	1,083 Acres of Wheat 527 Acres of Barley

There are 118 commercial farms by economic class. Farm machinery numbers have increased considerably. Much growth has taken place in the non-agriculture segment of the county. More and more time is being devoted to county and rural residents with city employment.

Stafford County has an agriculture that is quite diversified. This can best be understood when it is realized that there are three soil areas. Generally, land west of No. 1 Highway is classified as piedmont soil while that east of the highway is typically coastal plains soil. A considerable acreage bordering these two areas is piedmont soil overlaid with a coastal plains cap. This mixed soil condition results in some less productive soils. General farming is predominant in the western section and heavy cash cropping on the coastal plains soils.

I. County Situation

A. Location and Size

Stafford County is situated at the head of the Northern Neck, bounded on the south by the Rappahannock, on the east by the Potomac Run, on the north by Prince William County, and on the west by Fauquier County. The total area of the county is 271 square miles or 173,440 acres. The number of farms has decreased from 712 as indicated by the 1954 census, to 440 farms as revealed by the 1959 census. There are 57,560 acres of farmland of which 30,496 acres are in cropland and pasture and about 30,748 in woodland. Average size of farms is 130.8 acres in 1959 as compared with 105.1 in 1954. The population was listed in the 1960 census at 15,000. Income from non-farm sources exceeding farm products sold was reported by 323 operators.

B. Agriculture

Nearly three-fourths of Stafford's 1959 farm income came from livestock, poultry and dairy products. The chief livestock items are cattle, calves and hogs. Field crops consist of corn, small grains, soybeans and hay. The type of agriculture consists mainly of a rotation of grain, hay and pasture. During the past five or six years much land has been converted into pasture and there is a definite trend toward increased production of beef cattle and sheep.

The latest census figures (1959) indicate considerable change in Stafford County over the previous (1954) figures. The total number of farms and farm land has decreased, however, most of the

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