

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

A. C. Holpp

Extension Agent

Wanda Ferrell

Extension Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



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County

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I-- INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND
CARRYING OUT THE EXTENSION PROGRAM.

The sixteen Home Demonstration Clubs of Giles County have a committee composed of club presidents, program development leaders and standing committee members. This committee takes an analysis of the county situation; and then functions to plan, promote, and evaluate the county Home Economics program.

Each 4-H Club member that is elected to an office and all Junior Leaders automatically become members of the county 4-H Council. This council decides on all business matters; it also appoints necessary committees to promote and give publicity to 4-H Club work.

A 4-H adult leaders organization meets at the same time of the 4-H Club Council. This organization gives advice and assistance to the individual 4-H Club member, and to their activities.

Leaders are trained by specialists, agents and other qualified people to assist in carrying out the extension program as planned by the various committees.

Leaders are selected for a certain phase of the program according to their interest and abilities. Trained Home Demonstration Club leaders are in charge of the monthly meetings when the agent is not scheduled to meet with the clubs, or can not attend due to conflicting meetings.

Adult 4-H Club leaders assume the sole responsibility of club meetings out of school. This responsibility includes both

organizational and project instruction and supervision.

A good evaluation of the leadership assumed by the adult leader is shown by the fact that the clubs represented at county achievement and council meetings are those with adult leaders.

By observation, it may be noted that there are some adults in the county that are now very good leaders. But before receiving training as leaders, through the extension program, they found it impossible to express their opinion at a public meeting.

II-MAJOR EMPHASIS--AREA SHEEP PRODUCTION

The income per ewe in Giles County is far below where it should be. Progress in this area has been far below what we would have liked. Too many lambs go to market that bring around \$5.00 per head that should have been worth \$20.00. As Mr. George Litton says, "Too many sheep get the tail end of the feed and care."

Too many of these poor quality lambs are kept for flock replacements and not enough attention is given to the procurement and use of good rams.

Several visits were made to the stock market during the lamb sale season and it was discouraging to see the high percent of low grade lambs that come to market.

The market records were inspected to find out the names of the farmers who were bringing in the cheap lambs.

It was found that all but one of these farmers were ones that never attended meetings and do not read letters. These were farmers whom are hard for extension agents or any other person to reach.

A 4-H boy developed a demonstration on "Saving Lambs at Birth" and gave the demonstration at four different places. We had no way to measure the results of this effort.

One farmer was third place winner in the Returns per Ewe Contest. His record and methods were given publicity by letter and newspaper. Letters were sent to all the sheep producers

but only five signed up for this year and the records from these have been received.

More work needs to be done in sheep production but progress will be slow.

MAJOR EMPHASIS--BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION

Increased efficiency in beef cattle was one area of major emphasis.

About half of the farm income in Giles County is derived from the sale of feeder cattle. There is a lot of room for improvement in the quality of the calves. The size of the calves can be improved by better breeding schedules. It was decided by the committee that the best method of improving sires and breeding schedules was to get farmers to participate in the demonstration sales. In these sales the calves are weighed and graded separately so that the farmer knows how much that each cow's calf sold for.

Another new field buyer was in the county this year so our progress was not as great as was hoped for. Several farmers who had expressed interest in the sales sold in the field when the competition between field buyers was increased.

The calves that did go to the sale again showed steady improvement over those in past years, both in grade and size. Fifty percent of the calves in the angus sale from the county graded fancy and choice. Three farmers sold calves that showed outstanding improvement in both grade and size.

One farmer sold 30 calves at an average weight of 532 lbs. with sixty percent grading choice and fancy.

The number of farmers purchasing purebred bulls this year from the purebred bull sales was double the number last year.

MAJOR EMPHASIS--FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

One third of the farm land of Giles County is in woodland. The production of this woodland is far below it's capability. Too much of the area is taken up by trees that have no value. Our biggest need is to remove or poison a large number of these worthless trees and release the desirable species so they can grow. This would increase the value of the production of our forests and would be economical in many areas, if the labor can be found to do the work.

A forestry demonstration site was selected where some release work needs to be done on a yellow poplar stand. An inventory was taken last winter that would give information for research but the marking for the release work has not been done.

Three groups of 4-H Club members have been taken through the demonstration site but little else can be done until the trees that are to be removed are marked.

MAJOR EMPHASIS--FORAGE PRODUCTION

The feeding level of the dairy and beef animals and the sheep in the county depends greatly on the quality and quantity of forage produced. The production of alfalfa per acre in Giles County has been above the state average for the past few years. The coming of the alfalfa weevil and the increase in importance of chickweed have caused some cut in production and has discouraged some farmers. It was determined that the most economical way to increase the amount of forage available to livestock was to increase the amount of corn silage. The number of farmers using silage this year did not increase as much as the amount of silage produced by the farmers who have used silage in former years.

Three complete production demonstrations were carried out on corn during the year and one on alfalfa.

The alfalfa demonstration did not respond to treatment and little use was made of the demonstration. This demonstration is being continued for another year and another added where chickweed control should be spectacular if conditions are similar to last year.

All three demonstrations showed excellent results in weed control with the use of atrazine on the corn ground. Two of the demonstrations showed little effect from the additional fertilizer used. The yield on one demonstration was almost double that of the check. A large percentage was obviously due to the

difference in weed control.

Two definite things were learned from these demonstrations this year. They are:

1. An alfalfa sod is a poor place to demonstrate the use of fertilizer in a good corn year.
2. A demonstration to be seen by a large number of farmers and to be of effective use in teaching must be located along the highway.

With the large percentage of part time farmers that we have in Giles County only small attendance can be expected at field meetings, but a large number will observe a demonstration by the road if it is publicized and labeled.

MAJOR EMPHASIS--PROJECT AREA 4-H-CLUB WORK

In Giles County we have found that in order to increase the tenure of 4-H members that we must have 4-H Clubs organized out of school for the older members.

Members that become enthused over 4-H work after they have passed grade school age are those who have competed in activities outside of their club.

This year we had a greater number of club members take part in out of county activities than we have ever had. Of the 481 members in the county 122 participated in camps, short course, district contests or other out of county activities.

The greatest number of participants in competitive events come from the out of school clubs that have volunteer leaders.

This year a 4-H Honor Club was organized. They have selected Career Exploration as their main objective for the year. Their first meeting for work on Career Exploration will be in January.

The number and quality of individual projects and club educational exhibits at the Newport Fair was increased this year.

II--SELECTING FOUNDATION GARMENTS AND ALTERING CLOTHING

Homemakers have developed an awareness that a correctly fitted foundation garment is very important, and to be smartly dressed ones clothes must be well fitted.

Objectives were: to provide homemakers with knowledge and skill in altering clothing; to instruct homemakers in making a tailored garment; and to teach selection of appropriate foundation garments for the individual.

The home agent taught a tailoring class with ten members enrolled, including four non-club members. Garments made were: 3 coats, 6 suits and 1 dress with a jacket. The comments voiced by members of the class were excellent; also people seeing the garments that had been constructed, made very favorable comments.

Home Demonstration Club leaders were trained by the clothing specialist and the home agent gave a method demonstration on altering garments. Leaders in all 16 clubs gave this demonstration to their club members. Sixty five members reported altering 412 garments.

The home agent gave an illustrated demonstration on selecting foundation garments to the 16 Home Demonstration Clubs. Many of the women stated that they had never known how to measure for a foundation garment; or that a foundation garment was necessary for slim women. Since this demonstration several ladies have the agent that they bought a good foundation garment; also the local store clerks said their sales on foundation garments

had increased since the demonstration.

A workshop on cleaning and adjusting the sewing machine was conducted by an engineering specialist. This too, has assisted in improving clothing construction.

A clothing training meeting was held for 4-H leaders to explain project requirements and activities related to the clothing projects.

Home Furnishings and Housing

Homemakers felt a need for knowledge in buying and arranging furniture. Information was also needed on renovating houses and painting new and remodeled homes.

Objectives were to teach buying and arrangement of furniture, selection of paint, reupholstering and the remodeling of houses. Sixty-five Home Demonstration Club members report that 112 rooms have been painted, 8 closets, 2 basements, 6 pieces of porch furniture, 9 porch floors and 16 houses have been painted on the outside.

Twenty-one homes have been remodeled. This includes: 2 refinished floors, 1 family room, 1 car port, 2 bathrooms, 1 cabinet, 3 porches, 3 basements, 2 storm windows, 10 new windows, 12 rooms papered, and 3 paneled.

Also 13 pieces of furniture have been upholstered.

The home agent gave method demonstrations to the clubs on fabric selection for home decorating and furniture selection. Leaders gave a method demonstration on arrangement of furniture. 29 members reported purchasing home furnishing fabrics, 18 club members bought new furniture and 47 have rearranged furniture.

It is quite obvious that women of the county have become more conscious of their homes, and have developed a desire to make them more liveable and attractive.

OTHER EXTENSION WORK NOT OF MAJOR EMPHASIS

In Giles County where the agriculture is diversified and a majority of those on farms are part time farmers, a major part of the agents time must be devoted to matters that are more or less routine. This is especially true where there are just one man and one woman agent. One of the greatest values of an agent in this county is being a consultant to the diversified part time farmers.

Some of the small efforts bring amazing results for the amount of time spent on them.

Straw in Wool

Last year the farmers had put in new straw bedding where the sheep were being held to be sheared. This resulted in a lot of loose straw in the wool. Two letters that were sent to the sheep producers warned of this oversight. This year the wool came to the pool almost free from straw.

Wheel Track Planting Corn

Another instance was that of wheel track planting corn without discing the ground. One farmer did this very successfully last year and a newspaper article was written. This year several people tried it, many on steep land and were pleased that it cut down erosion.

R.A.D.

Considerable time was spent on R.A.D. this year. The county open meeting was held on November 27th with thirty six people in attendance. We did not have a committee formed or organization

set up at this meeting. A few favorable comments have been heard of the meeting during the past month. In the near future a number of those present at the county meeting will be called together in an effort to come up with some kind of county R.A.D. organization.

III--SUCCESS STORY

A few years ago a former county agent was asked how he had done so much to take boys from lowly surroundings to great accomplishments. His answer was, "I take them up on the hill and let them look around." He went ahead to explain that he meant to broaden their horizon or broaden their vision. This could mean "Make Their Best Better."

This year considerable progress has been made in increasing the vision of the 4-H members.

Thirty members participated in the county demonstration contest. Six clubs prepared and put up educational exhibits at the Newport Fair.

Eighty 4-H members attended younger 4-H Camp and six the older camp.

Seven members participated in District Demonstration Contests and four in State Contests. Eleven members participated in District Judging Contests and three in State Judging contests.

Eleven members attended Short Course; one, Fontana Resource Development Conference; three, Conservation Camp; two, Forestry Camp and two, Electric Congress.

The club members also planned and put on the achievement program.

We are proud of the boys and girls and the Volunteer Leaders who have helped them do what they chose to do to improve their activities.

IV--GENERAL APPRAISAL OF YEARS WORK

There are many areas of progress in the Giles County Extension Program of which the agents are proud, but we can always see things that we would like to improve.

We are proud of our volunteer 4-H leaders who have helped us to have the biggest participation ever in out of county 4-H activities.

The participation was also better in the 4-H exhibits at the Newport Fair and in the county demonstration contests.

It seems that with 4-H school clubs to be met on schedule, many activities such as livestock, wool marketing, R.A.D., Civil Defense and all the other programs that must be carried on that we sometimes get discouraged.

There seems to be so little time left to plan thoroughly and carry out programs that make a county extension program outstanding. We never expect to be satisfied with our work but we do look forward to the accomplishments of which we can be proud.