

VIRGINIA.

MECKLENBURG CO. CO. AGT. ANNUAL REPORT

1927

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT OF

1926-27

MECKLENBURG COUNTY, VIRGINIA

N.H. Williams, Jr., COUNTY AGENT

COUNTY AGENT WORK

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I.

(1) It should be understood in the beginning that Hecklenburg county has scarcely any farm organizations since the collapse of the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association. Outside of some four or five farm woman's units, (Home Demonstration Clubs or merely Woman's Clubs) the Community Leagues or Parent-Teacher Associations, there is practically no organization among the rural people.

As outlined in these narrative reports of this agent for 1925 and 1926, we have nominally a County Agricultural Advisory Board made up of about 20 farmers, Smith-hughes teachers, bankers and other interested town men.

The word "nominal" is used for the reason that this Board has not had a well-attended meeting this year, in spite of the Agent's efforts two or three times. But in spite of this fact, the Board and its Committees have been of material aid to the agent in planning and carrying out the Extension Program. One instance of this can be seen from the success of the second annual Farm Tour, a project the Agents could never have undertaken without the aid, advice and active cooperation of several members of the Advisory Board.

This Board is loosely organized and does not attempt but two general meetings a year, altho its Committees are called together more often when the Agent needs advice or help in any problem.

The local people assist in making out the County Extension Program and in acting somewhat as local leaders in their several communities. They act principally in an advisory capacity and do not attempt much active work, unless the project is of peculiar interest to them or unless requested to do so by the agent.

(2) The general policies of course are based on the needs of the county. The urgent need of crop diversification in this county is always discussed and means to remedy this are constantly being sought. Soil improvement always receives its share of attention the principal remedies being more lime and more legumes and more cream shippers, and in general more livestock. This latter is important from another angle, that of increasing the farm income, as is being done from shipping cream and hogs and in the sale of dairy stock. Club Work as a means towards keeping more of the bright girls and boys on the farm is approved by the Advisory Board, as well as the educational side of the Tri-County Fair.

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(1) Our farmers needed more income to assist them in paying off old debts, as well as current obligations, and they needed ways of doing this by making better use of their available labor and in short, a better distribution of labor. This way accomplished in some degree by the cream shipping program, by feeding some hogs for market and by marketing their poultry and eggs to better advantage. Some farmers had more corn than they could sell, and a number of the better farmers had a lot of roughage to market; these factors all influenced our desire to produce more hogs and to market more cream.

One of the cardinal needs in this section has been soil improvement. Another great need has been the use of more legume crops to build up this poor land. Therefore the need of more lime stood out as one of our greatest problems, but our farmers have been so hard up that very little lime was used. But with the very fine cooperation of the Bertha Mineral Co., Austinville, we have secured sixteen (16) cars of lime this year, nine of which were free except of course for the freight.

Some of our farmers do not produce enough roughage. Many of our farmers who do should seek to produce hay of higher feeding value. This induced the Agent to carry on active campaigns to increase the acreage of soybeans and alfalfa. Also the time of a county agent is so well taken up that the permanence of alfalfa has a decided advantage for, once established, it will last four or six years or more and he does not have to arrange for alfalfa demonstrations yearly. Another advantage often overlooked of alfalfa is that it increases the appearance of the farm---especially when it is put out near the highway.

(2) As many another agent has found, more can be accomplished by attacking several projects than by scattering your energies over a number and not getting much resulting benefit. Accordingly, the chief projects undertaken this year were (1) Lime, (2) The Production of more cress, (3) the marketing of more hogs, (4) the increased seeding of soybeans and alfalfa.

(a) Soils. As stated above, sixteen cars of limestone were secured. Approximately 608 tons were in these cars and they were divided among 128 people. About 28 of these farmers are new users of lime. Nine of these sixteen cars were shipped to our farmers free by the Bertha Mineral Co., Austinville, Va. These free cars were divided up into small lots and used by from 5 to 23 people each for demonstration purposes.

It is rather interesting to note that these cars went into eight neighborhoods, as follows:

Skipwith	1
South Hill	3
Chase City	5
Clarksville	1
Maskerville	2
Palmer Springs	1
Union Level	1
Boydton	1
LaCroasse RFD	1

Four cars of the sixteen were given to the Smith-Hughes teachers for their boys and their parents.

Knowing the policies of the Bertha Mineral Co., Agent would sometimes go into a neighborhood and say to one of his local leaders, "Mr. Elliott, one of our lime companies has been kind enough to give us several cars of limestone. Now the freight on this lime to Buffalo Junction is \$1.70 a ton. Do you think you could help me work up a 30 to 35 ton car and either distribute it yourself or get someone who will?" Most of the time the answer would come, "Yes, sir, I think we can work this up---I want some myself for my wheat. I will, some of the neighbors and let you hear from me." In a few days this man would write or see me and we would order out the car, most of them carrying 40 tons and one even 41 tons. In other cases where very little lime had been used, Agent would assist one farmer in seeing his neighbors.

Carson Moore wanted to sow some alfalfa and realized that he

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must have some lime to grow it successfully. One day the agent was talking with him and mentioned the fact that a car could be secured if it was divided up between eight or ten people. This was arranged and notwithstanding the high freight rate (\$2.37 to Wise, N.C.) the car was secured and divided up. Just a few days ago Agent had a letter from him saying that some of his neighbors would be glad if I could get them another car on the same terms, and this is in a neighborhood where both the agent and the farmers thought it too far from the railroad to haul lime.

Agent honestly believes he can secure twenty five to thirty cars during 1928. He has already ordered one car, has two or three more in immediate sight and a number of other prospects.

(b) Farm Crops. While the main emphasis this year has been placed on soybeans and alfalfa, still the Agent has other Farm Crops work to report. Roy P. Gordon has a very good strain of Boone County corn and has won a number of prizes on it, both in the county and State Contests. This corn will be certified after this year, for he has run an ear-to-row test but is incomplete, not having been weighed up and recorded yet. This man won first at State Fair this year on ten ears and the Special Prize offered for the best white corn on exhibition. This sample was sent to the Southeastern Fair, and his second best sample was brought to our Tri-County Fair where he again won first. A third best sample was sent on to the Petersburg Fair, winning second there. Other corn exhibits sent to the State Fair included 22 club samples, all of which was sent on to Petersburg Fair. Twelve premiums at the State Fair and thirteen at the Petersburg Fair were taken. At the Tri-County Fair 32 samples were shown, this agent showing all of this with the exception of 8 samples. \$55.00 was won on corn and \$7.80 on soybean exhibits, all being from 4-H Club members.

The relative price of the Laredo soybean and the size of the seed this year resulted in the Agent's securing 100 bushels directly and influencing the purchase and use of at least 100 bushels more. We purchased these seed at \$2.36 a bus. and in fact many of our farmers who wanted to try the ~~seed~~ Virginia chose the Laredo instead. A lawyer of Boynton, who has relatives in eastern North Carolina, sold some 200 bushels of Mammoth Yellows, due in part to Extension Work helping to create a desire for a trial of soybeans.

G.W. Kiser, W.R. Sutterworth and E.L. Thompson, like the Laredo because of its fineness of stem and stalk, but W.W. Estes thinks he prefers the Virginia for he says the Laredo has a tendency to bed on good land. These were some splendid yields of soybean hay this year, some of the demonstrators securing as much as two tons per acre. W.L. Allgood, C.E. Garnett, John Seville, J.J. Martin, E.L. Thompson, W.R. Sutterworth, G.W. Kiser, who grew his with Sudan Grass and Abraham peas, W.A. Garner, and M.E. Brooks, all got heavy yields of hay.

1926 was a good year to save peas consequently there was a large acreage of peas also. The Agent estimated that there was 7000 to 8000 acres of beans and peas used this year, and some farmers have more feed than they have had in years.

Sweet clover deserves more attention from our people, especially as a pasture. The demonstration of Milton Wells was an eye-opener to the agent. On a four acre lot that had been limed and fertilized, his stock couldn't keep it down and he grazed two or three head of cattle, two mules, two brood sows and ten or twelve hogs on it all summer. The 5-acre pasture of M.D. Fotts, while not a demonstration, was a life-saver to him when his other pasture went back on him, and he too, is

convinced of its great value. W.H. Sutterworth, retail dairyman at South Hill, seeded fifteen acres in February on limed and fertilized land, mixed with orchard grass, alsike clover and berds grass but he did not get a very good stand altho Agent hopes it will thicken up some this winter. G.W. Kizer seeded a little several years ago and it has reseeded itself and he is making hay of it and he likes it. M.L. Powell, who could not be convinced of its value until Agent took him a copy of Boards Dairyman, now says it is one of the greatest crops he knows. The acreage will be materially increased during 1928.

Instead of putting my time on poultry culling this fall, Agent worked on Lime and Alfalfa and the results, while not large, are gratifying. Fourteen men, eleven new growers, seeded some 24 1/2 acres and eight of these fields are on public roads, where the passerby can see. In addition two men seeded 3 1/2 acres to a mixture of alfalfa and known origin red clover. Now these men are distributed over the county may be seen from the table below:

Name	Address	Name	Address
Thomas Bros	Skipwith	M.A. Gallion	Chase City R 3
C.B. Blaneh	Maskerville R 2	P.M. Robertson	" "
D.M. Stovall	" "	J.A. Kibler	" R 4
J.T. Goode	Chase City R 4	J.E. Baird	" "
J.A. Kibler	" "	E.D. Potts	" "
W.L. Allgood	Boydton R 2	W.W. Estes	" R 2
L.R. Perkinson	Chase City	R.A. Garron	" "
D.W. Wiley	Clarksville RFD	J.E. Yancey	Clarksville RFD
Reynolds Bros.	Chase City		

In addition there are some 14 men who for various reasons did not seed this fall but who will seed next spring.

Agent has been at work for several years on some of these men, for example P.M. Robertson and J.A. Kibler. Both these men seeded the crop next the highway and Agent is trusting their success will impress other farmers so that the acreage might be extended further.

Last spring I got a letter from D.M. Stovall of Maskerville R 2, who asked me to come by and talk with him regarding poultry culling, his orchard and using lime. Agent could not get down at once but when he did go Mr. Stovall said something about liming some land as an experiment. Agent told him he was about to order a car of the free lime and urged him to see one of his neighbors who had this in charge. He succeeded in getting two tons and he put the two tons on some land he had been trying to improve and seeded the field in cowpeas. Shortly after the peas came up, the difference between the limed and the unlimed land was very striking and continued so until nearly harvest time. This man told the agent he wanted to grow some Alfalfa and of course agent was pleased. So they walked to this field and agent told him he could get this limed land in Alfalfa this year if he was careful to fertilize and handle the land and crop according to the best methods of other alfalfa farmers. To make a long story short, the farmer disced down his peas, fertilized his land, inoculated his Highland ^{grass} Alfalfa seed and seeded the crop. On the Agent's last visit November 30th the man is so carried away that he wants 10 tons of lime and he ~~wants to~~ ^{is} already to start manuring another acre for alfalfa, as well as seeding several acres to sweet clover, being impressed with what District Agent told him of that crop. He has a good stand of his present alfalfa. Agent is especially pleased with this man's work, as it is in a section where very little alfalfa has been grown.

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Both in 1926 and 1927, Agent has talked to a number of farmers about the copper carbonate treatment for smut, and has influenced several merchants to carry this material. A large number of cards of instruction were distributed last year, but not as many this year on account of the Agent's desire to push the seeding of alfalfa. The mills over the county all have circular material sent them regarding this treatment, and that has been a great help in getting from 150 to 200 lbs of copper carbonate sold this year. The great losses from smut is seen from the fact that E.A. Gill of this county had his entire crop of 175 bushels of wheat turned down by the mill on account of smut, and he had to use it for poultry and hog feed.

(c) Horticulture. It should be understood that there are no orchards in this county of commercial size, all of these being merely home orchards and vineyards.

At the Agents' meeting last year, the horticultural Department advanced the idea that the home orchard be discouraged, on account of the farmer not having enough at stake to spray carefully, and thus allowing his neglected home orchard to become a disease-breeding menace to his neighbors. This idea was opposed by some of the extension force but this Agent is inclined to believe F.A. Motts is right. Many farmers and town people, who have just a few trees and vines, do not consider it enough importance to spray, while if they either had a few more trees, they would spray, or if they had none, they would cease to be a menace and they could buy a few apples and peaches cheaper possibly than they could produce them. On the other hand it is well understood that fruit is a valuable food not only from a vitamin viewpoint but also to help regulate the system.

The Agent assisted at least 10 people in using paradichlorobenzene for killing peach borers, advised 15 to 20 people regarding the proper use of sprays, demonstrated pruning on 20 farms, and talked to a number of farmers regarding fertilization and cultivation.

Mr. Joel E. Wall of Moydton had a home orchard and a vineyard, largely looked after by Mrs. Wall. Last year Agent assisted them in pruning the orchard and then the grapes, which had been pruned at. The Agent heard from Mrs. Wall saying they had had the best grapes they had ever had and she asked him to come by and help her again, which he did with the grapes. In August their vineyard was a picture---large bunches of sound grapes that furnished the family and a good many neighbors. Mrs. Wall later told the Agent that they were so discouraged with their vineyard that they had seriously considered destroying it, and his work saved it. The vines had been allowed to thicken up so that very few sound grapes were had and after a vigorous pruning and several sprayings, they produced a wonderful crop.

(d) Forestry. The importance of this work is readily seen when most of our timber has been cut, and on part of this cut over land the seedling trees are coming in very irregularly. Then too there are many fields that should be growing trees that at present are making small yields of crops, and many stands of young trees could be improved by judicious thinning and cutting out weed trees.

Our people, most of them, are too short-sighted to realize the importance of forestry work. If they realize it, they are unwilling to undertake it for results are slow. For instance many of them feel that if they planted trees, they would be dead before they reaps any of the benefits.

Cooperating with J.W.O. Byrne, Extension Forester, two demonstrations

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have been started in this county this year, one a thinning demonstration on M.W. Smith's farm and the other a planting demonstration of Black Locust on A.E. Garner's farm. One of these men is located near Chase City and the other near Saskerville.

We went into a pine woods on Mr. Smith's farm, laid off one-quarter acre, read the diameter of the stand trees, and then marked the dead trees, crooked and forked trees, and asked the owner to measure up the cordwood cut from this area. This demonstration has not been checked over and it will be several years before any worth-while results are secured.

Mr. Garner had a saucer-shaped field that was in pasture that was washing badly, about four to five acres. He took the agent to this field during the fall of 1926 and said that he couldn't even get "wire grass" to catch on this field and he wondered how he had best handle it, for very few pine seedlings were coming on, the seed trees being so far away. The Agent suggested that we get Mr. O'Syrne to advise us when we could get him. When he came he told Mr. Garner that in his judgement forest trees of some kind should be planted. We discussed this and finally decided that the best tree for the owner to use on this field was Black Locust and that the most sensible thing to do was to secure seed of this tree, soak them in hot water to burst the seed coat and then plant them in the garden and reset them later in the field. Accordingly one-half pound of these seed were secured and planted and this winter the seedlings will be reset. Some of them are 3 ft. in height while others are 18 inches to 2 ft. Mr. O'Syrne figures that in 8 to 10 years with fair luck, Mr. Garner should be cutting fence posts from this lot. Just how badly posts are needed on many farms may be realized when a great deal of the cedar has been shipped away during the last several years.

Mr. O'Syrne addressed the Parent-Teachers Association of Chase City during American Forestry Week and interested them a good deal. He also addressed the school children that morning in chapel, some 400 of them, on the importance of forest trees and why conservation was important.

Many farmers in this section will never set seedling trees and in many cases, this is not necessary, our forester says, but in some cases where the stand is irregular, it would pay.

(e) Animal Husbandry. Some farmers had more corn from the 1926 crop than usual and the prices did not justify the sale of it. One mill only paid 80 cents for it after it was shelled and sacked. The adjoining county to the south is Granville county, North Carolina and their extension force was succeeding in getting the farmers to feed out some hogs for market, altho Agent understands that in many cases, they had to purchase both feed and hogs.

Some of our farmers had relatives in Granville county and these relatives on visits to this county would tell something of their success in feeding hogs for market. A good many of their farmers got 18 cents for their hogs during September, 1926.

Geo. C. Herring, in charge of Swine Work for V.P.I. ^{and this Agent} had been working on this problem for several years, honestly believing that a county so near Richmond with our mild climate and ability to raise corn, if our farmers tried, should raise some hogs for market. We had become discouraged however and altho we had a Fattening Pig Club among the 4-H Club Projects, we didn't see much chance of our getting any results. Word came from Granville that hogs were being produced there for

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\$5.00 to \$6.50 per hundred pounds, and that many of their farmers were making a good profit. The agent wrote their agent for information and he stated that they shipped about 18 cars of hogs during 1926 and that he would be glad to have our people come over but that at this time (December 1926) they had no demonstrations running, all having been completed and no more started.

This Agent was glad to capitalize on this interest so during December, January and February, a good deal of work was put on this project. Mr. Herring came in the latter part of December and we saw a number of the most interested men, among them being Clarence L. Russell, who had a quantity of corn on his river farm.

On New Year's Day we helped this man build a self-feeder for corn and Mr. Herring advised him to feed corn, fish meal and a mineral mixture to his 35 pigs. He agreed after some persuasion to run a demonstration for he said he was going to keep records anyway. After some difficulty in securing fish meal, he finally put his hogs on "full ration" in January. Below is given the report on his work:

	Number of pigs started on feed	35	
	Number of Pigs marketed	34	
	Length of feeding period	83 days	
Initial weight	45 lbs each	1575 lbs total	
Final weight	174 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs each	5941 lbs "	
Gain	129.4 " "	4366 "	
Average daily gain	1.55 lbs		
Feed per 100 lbs gain	399 lbs		
Income: 34 hogs weighing 5941 lbs @10 $\frac{1}{2}$			\$608.95
Costs: 35 pigs @ \$7.00 each		\$245.00	
193 $\frac{1}{2}$ bu. corn @ 80 $\frac{1}{2}$		154.80	
18 $\frac{1}{2}$ bbls short corn @ \$2.50		46.25	
300 lbs wheat middlings @ \$2.25		6.75	
700 lbs fish meal @ \$3.88		27.16	
	Total feed cost	\$235.36	
Hauling and other expense		18.40	
	Total Cost	498.76	
Profit			\$110.19

Besides giving him this profit, Mr. Russell says that he got the cash for his corn four months sooner than he would have if he had merely marketed the corn. He marketed his hogs April 5th and he never completed the sale of his corn before August or September.

Some 15 farmers were taken to see this demonstration and in this way we sought to impress them with the value of this work. We also gave the above record and news article to the county papers, both of which published it.

Our cooperators marketed about 104 hogs for a total of \$1758.54 in the spring and 124 hogs in the fall for \$2673.04, making a grand total of \$4431.58. C. L. Russell ran another demonstration in the fall but the final report has not been completed and can't be reported. His financial statement was better than his former one, for he had more hogs (43 head) the prices were better, and then some of his corn was purchased below the market. He estimates he made \$300.00 profit on his fall lot. He had both early and late corn and soybeans planted and about the middle of November, he had not even turned on his late pasture of Mammoth Brown soys but was saving that for his hogs this winter. He is so pleased with his results that he plans to continue his work.

Two entries in the Ton Litter contest from this county were secured, each of them having 8 pigs. The litter of S. Milton Wells weighed 1788 lbs at 178 days old and the litter of A. J. Hawkins weighed 1885 lbs. The statement of the latter follows:

Value of pigs at market price	\$40.00
6 1/2 bu. corn @ \$1.00	61.66
650 lbs Pig Chow @ \$3.50	22.75
Trucking to market	16.00

Total expense \$140.43

Receipts 1885 lbs @ 11 1/2

\$185.44

Profit

45.01

52 Club members were enrolled, 45 of which entered the Fattening Pig Club and 7 in the Breeding Club with purebred pigs. Of this number, 30 children completed the Fattening Club, raising 31 pigs and showing a profit of \$115.78. These members won prizes to the value of \$188.00. Of the 7 breeding pigs, 6 completed and they made a profit of \$21.42 and won \$36.00 in premiums.

Charles Johnson, an outstanding Pig Club member, won the \$100.00 scholarship offered by the Seaboard Railway Co. for the most efficient club work carried on in the counties traversed by their road. With this scholarship, Charles attended the 6th annual meeting of the National Club Congress in Chicago.

Four purebred pigs and fourteen fattening pigs were carried to the State Fair, exhibited and then the fat ones sold. Kingan & Co. purchased these pigs for 12 cents and their owners received the sum of \$337.60. So we see that Club members are also selling fat hogs. The results obtained at the State Fair follow:

		Weight	
	Rice Wagstaff	225	
	Wilson Blanch	225	
1st Pen of five fat hogs of same breed from one county	Kemper Moseley	195	
	James Elm	225	
	Hamilton Crute	215	
5th Pen (same as above)	James Atkinson	175	
	Frank Gillispie	180	
	Wesley Holmes	150	
	James Puryear	165	
	Arthur Puryear	145	
Individual Pigs	First Wilson Blanch		
	Third Charles Johnson	320	
	Fifth Marshall Daves	230	
	Sixth Rice Wagstaff		
	Seventh Wade Drumwright	185	
	Eighth Grear Taylor	160	
	Senior Berkshire sow	1st	Graham Chandler
	Junior "	4th	Finch Lenhart
" Duroc-Jersey sow	7th	Hall Black	
" "	8th	Roy Glasener	

A good deal of publicity was given to the adult and 4-H Club work. As each man reported his returns, they were written up briefly and sent the county papers, and favorably commented on.

Even with increasing prices for corn next year, and with lower prices for pork in prospect, there should be an increased interest in this undertaking, particularly where farmers are shipping cream and have the skim milk to dispose of.

The report on C.L. Russell's feeding demonstration for the fall of 1927 has just been received from Mr. Herring and is reported below. Early corn and soybeans (Jarvis Golden Prolific and Haberlandt) and late corn and Mammoth Brown beans were planted and Agent does not think any allowance is made for his late pasture in the statement:

<u>Income</u>		
17 hogs sold		\$324.00
2 gilts kept for breeding purposes		35.00
11 hogs for pork		150.00
15 pigs @ \$5.00		65.00
12 pigs (profit from one-half interest)		25.00
	Total income	\$999.00
<u>Cost of Pigs</u>		
15 pigs @ \$5.00		\$75.00
15 " @ 5.50		82.50
	Total	\$157.50
<u>Feed cost until turned into corn</u>		
137½ bu. corn @ 45¢ to \$1.00 per bu		\$102.00
1 bag wheat middlings		2.25
5 bags fish meal and tankage		20.00
	Total	\$124.25
<u>* Cost of producing corn & beans</u>		
1 bu. seed corn		3.00
2 bu. soybeans @ \$3.00		6.00
8 days-man & team-plowing, etc		24.00
73/4 days-discing, dragging, planting		29.00
53/4 " -cultivating		20.25
1½ days chopping		2.50
	Total cost	\$84.75
Total cost		\$366.00
Profit over cost of production not including interest and rent of land		\$232.50

*The late field was not figured in this statement.

(f). This Agent has never seen such a great demand for dairy cows, and in fact, for cows of all kinds. When it is seen that this county is credited with about 8,000 head of cattle, and that we have shipped from this county about 30 cars this year, one can understand the great demand. Agent understands that Howerton Bros. of Clarksville alone have sold 25 cars, some of which went to dairymen and others went to beef cattle men. This Agent himself has assisted farmers in the sale of \$8,118.41 of stock, directly. Subtracting the money received from the sale of hogs we have \$3,683.83. While the Agent indirectly is responsible for much more than this, still it is very difficult to estimate.

Mecklenburg county, with its reputation partly established for Guernsey cattle (due to the consistent work of the agents during the past twelve years) has attracted so many buyers that today cattle are changing hands at almost unheard of figures and very few high quality cattle are available. We have sold out too closely, a fact that the agent has been calling to the farmers'

attention all the year. We should really be bringing in cows instead of shipping them out but what can one do when the buyers offer such attractive prices and the farmer has not yet enthused over shipping cream or selling butter? Some few farmers are reading the handwriting on the wall and are picking up here and there a few heifers or heifer calves that would have been vealed.

Some men are still hold their cows and shipping cream. We have this year lost one cream station (at Clarkville) and some of the smaller cream shippers have dropped out but notwithstanding this, we have shipped out about the same amount of cream we did last year, bringing our farmers slightly more more or about \$6,000.00. The Spring Grove Creamery had so much trouble with the mixed batches of cream, particularly in warm weather, that they instructed every one of their shippers to ship in separate containers which they did, thereby cutting out the cream stations. Several of our larger shippers at Chase City are shipping to Farmville, where they can do a little better than at Spring Grove. The Spring Grove truck continues to operate but we are anxious for them to get more cream.

One thing that has caused the small man to be disappointed is that his volume was so small that his overhead expenses ate up most of the income and he was never interested as much as the man whose check was larger. A man who was milking two cows and getting an eight or ten dollar check soon became discouraged but H.D. Potts who milks from seven to nine cows sticks, and feels pretty good with his bi-monthly check of \$33.00 to \$40, with very little feed to buy. The Agent will try this winter to have some of the small shippers start again and increase their cows.

Some of our bankers have become convinced that we need a creamery and to that end, have agreed to loan money on good notes to farmers to buy cows. The Agent has agreed that with the help of the Smith-Hughes teachers, we would find out how many farmers wanted cows on these terms but the cows are going to be scarce and high in price. A creamery of our own is a goal to which we have been working for several years.

A census of the purebred females in the county conducted by the agent several months ago show that counting baby calves we had at that time 150 head. Since then the total has increased to about 160 head, even after we have sold several head out of the county. We now have approximately \$50 bulls of pure blood in service also.

Good herds of Guernseys, grade and purebred, have been developed in the last few years by the following men:

Name	Address	App. No	F. S. Females
W.H. Sutterworth	South Hill	18	22
J.E. Sutterworth	"	5	
J.H. Ratliff	"	8	
H.M. Skelton	LaCrosse	9	
M.L. Powell	Union Level	13	
*C.S. Gordan & Daughter	Saskerville	8	
G.W. Kiser & Sons	Chase City R 4	12	
J.R. Blue	" R 1	7	
J.S. Rockwell	"	5	
Frankley Bros.	Skipwith	4	
S.J. Moseley	LaCrosse	7	
M.W. Smith & Sons	Chase City R 3	5	

* In the late fall of 1924, C.S. Gordan purchased a purebred heifer for his daughter Mabel and she joined the calf club. Today she has 8 head of females and has sold one bull calf.

We had 15 members enrolled this year in the 4-H Dairy Club but only 13 members completed their work, due to the remainder selling their calves during the contest. Six of these animals were exhibited ~~at~~ at the State Fair and ten at the Tri-County Fair, winning \$80.00 in premiums, as follows:

Member	State	Tri-County
Boyes Faggert	6th	1st Heifer
Hattie M. Kizer	7th	4th "
John Kizer	8th	3d "
M. W. Smith Jr	9th	6th "
Kabel Gordan	---	2d "
Robert Smith	---	1st Calf
Kabel Gordan	---	2d "
Mary Wagstaff	---	3d "
Robt. Kizer	---	4th "
James Kizer	---	5th "

A number of our herds, both purebreds and grades, are free from tuberculosis. In fact we have only found a few animals in the county with this dread disease. Every fall we have to test our Club calves before exhibiting, and while on the farm, every animal is tested. But for the benefit of the entire county, and the children in the country, a movement was started in September to have our county undertake the testing of all our cows under the "area plan". Dr. Givens, state veterinarian, and Dr. Gram, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, went before our Board of Supervisors with a number of interested men and asked for \$2500.00 with which to carry on this work. The board, while in sympathy with the movement, said that they had no way of financing it and they have been asked to table the matter until they could see further into it, or until a way of working this matter could be found. The Agent believes that if such a way can be found, that it will be done.

(h). Poultry Husbandry. This Agent does not do a great deal of Poultry work, for the same Agent does most of it. He has during the year furnished 10 people with plans for the building of poultry houses, helped people in several cases of disease, and in the shipment of three live poultry cars. More of these shipments would have been made if the market had justified it.

On February 12th, a poultry car moved thru LaCrosse, over the Seaboard Railway, and they received 1800 lbs of poultry, being patronized by 42 farmers, a few of which were from Brunswick county and bringing them approximately \$650.00. The Agents assisted in advertising this car, as did K.A. Keithley, of the Division of Markets.

On April 4th and 5th, the first live poultry car operated from Chase City was run, and this Agent had to devote a good deal of time to the advertising of this car. Mr. Keithley and one of the agricultural agents of the Southern Railway Co. helped the agents arrange for this shipment. We had hoped to get 3,000 lbs of poultry but we only received 2730 lbs and 52 crates of eggs, paying the farmers to the amount of about \$1131.30, raising the local market two cents on eggs and several cents on the different grades of poultry. Some opposition was encountered from the local merchants but it never amounted to much. The same week, another car moved thru LaCrosse but they ran into very rainy weather, so that their receipts were very small.

This project was well received by the farmers and their wives and we tried to continue it but the market slumped and we were unable to do so.

(i) Rural Engineering. 6625 ft. of terraces were laid off for two farmers and more could have been done had the Agent been able to secure the necessary help but the calls on the Agricultural Engineering Department are so great and the help so limited, that instead of doing this personal service work any longer, that this work will have to be done thru groups, who learn the theory and practice of terracing in so-called "schools". The Agent will try to hold one or two of these schools this winter.

A carload of Pyrotol was secured at LaCrosse, in cooperation with County Agent E.G. Stokes of Lanenburg and the Agricultural Engineering Department. Mecklenburg farmers secured from this car 7,600 lbs and later orders ran the total to 8,450 lbs. Fifty farmers were served in this project and the saving to the farmers amounted to \$1890.00, or slightly more.

At the present date (Dec. 5, 1927) Agent has orders totaling 11,300 lbs for a car to be distributed from Keysville, cooperating with county agents E.G. Stokes and E.E. McSwain. This car cannot be included in this report, altho it is put down here to indicate the interest of the farmers in this cheap explosive.

(j) Adult Rural Organization. As stated above, the collapse of the Tobacco Growers Co-Operative Association left Mecklenburg county without any rural organizations, excepting in a few cases, the Parent-Teachers Associations or Community Leagues.

In the spring, C.L. Pickard of the Department of Farm Management, V.F.I. came here and spent a day or two, conferring with the Agent regarding a type of farm organization that was proving successful in Halifax county, somewhat of a farmer's social club or recreation club, where the farmers and the younger boys and men could meet at stated intervals and play games and have a little fun, in addition to giving a chance for extension people and Smith-Rughes people to talk briefly to them regarding community problems and projects.

This appealed to the Agent and Mr. Pickard came back during November and meetings were held in two communities on this plan. The people seemed to like it and promised to give it a trial, saying that there was nothing of the kind they could take part in except this. Of course it remains to be seen whether these 30 farm men and boys will stick or not.

The second annual Farm Tour should be reported under this heading altho not exactly rural organization.

One hundred and twenty-one people were taken on a four-day trip into Southwest Virginia on a farm tour covering the following route:

Halifax	Roanoke
Danville	Fincaastle
Martinsville	Natural Bridge
Stuart	Glasgow
Hillsville	Lynchburg
Wytheville	Rustburg
Radford	Armondsal
Pulaski	Chase City
Blacksburg	

Farms were visited near Pulaski, Roanoke, Fincaastle and Lynchburg and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, the agricultural experiment station, the poultry plant, the cattle barns, the wonders of Natural Bridge were seen, and brief trips were made to Hollins College, Randolph-Macon College, and other places of interest. The crowd enjoyed this trip at a cost of \$6.50 per person. A Committee from the Advisory

not only helped the Agents plan this trip but did a vast amount of detail work in assisting. Without the help of this Committee, this trip would never have been possible. The Agent has never worked with such an intelligent, aggressive committee who were so thoroughly interested in an undertaking. Every member of this committee was responsible in large measure for the success of the tour. The organization may be seen from the following.

Leader	F.W. Babcock
Treasurer	W. Herbert Saunders
Cooks & Cooking	Carlton Thomas
Tents & Trucks	Wm Pitt Andrews
Publicity	Miss Goubtney Farrar & R.H. Williams Jr
Placards	Misses Mary & Gladys McKenney

A very pleasant trip was taken, and this Agent believes it was profitable too, from a standpoint of encouraging our people to grow more poultry, ship more cream and to sow more grass, clovers and alfalfa.

III

The outlook for Extension Work in this county appears to be bright. This Agent is very much encouraged with the amount of lime in prospect, with additional seedings of alfalfa and clovers and grass in prospect, and the increased interest in raising dairy cows, either for sale or to milk and market the product. Many farmers will seed sweet clover this winter, it now appears, using this crop mostly for pasture, and there should be more hogs shipped to market next year also. Several farmers are interested in sheep.

Club Work appears to be on a good basis and the greatest problem the agents have in this direction is in finding suitable leaders for the local clubs.

The farmers are paying up old debts and are planning to use some of their funds in permanent improvements, i.e., in Pyrotol for blowing stumps, in improved cattle and sheep, in lime and in fencing, etc. If larger crops of tobacco and cotton are not planted next year, the prosperity of our people should continue to increase, unless something unforeseen happens.

The cooperation being secured in most of the county is encouraging and the agent looks for 1928 to be his best year from the viewpoint of results secured.

The Office of Extension Service is to be congratulated on their recent "Extension Service Handbook on Agriculture and Home Economics" and this agent feels that this book fills a long-felt need and he predicts that the extension force will find practically every day use for it. In fact it has already been of some help to him.

IV

16 cars of limestone distributed, approximately 608 tons used by 128 people in 8 communities of the county. Roy P. Gordon, a Meeklenburg farmer, won first on 10 ears of white corn at the State Fair, 1st at Tri-County Fair, and 2nd at Petersburg fair. 22 samples of corn exhibited for 4-H Club members at State Fair and Petersburg Fair. 24 samples of Club Corn exhibited at Tri-County Fair. Corn Prelums won at these fairs \$58.00. 18 demonstrations of soybeans mostly Laredos. Approx. 200 bushels of Laredos ordered or directly influenced. 2 4-H Club exhibits of soybeans, prelums won \$7.50. Increase in acreage of soybeans & cowpeas, some of which can be

traced to the agent's work.

38 alfalfa demonstrations & 14 additional under way.

4 Sweet Clover demonstrations either completed or under way.

From 150 to 200 lbs of copper carbonate sold for treatment of wheat for smut.

Demonstrated pruning on 20 farms, 15 to 20 people regarding spraying, 10 people assisted in using para-dichlorobesine, and a number regarding cultivation and fertilization.

One thinning demonstration started and another planting demonstration arranged, in Forestry work.

Four hog feeding demonstrations completed. Hogs marketed to the value of \$4431.88. Approximately 228 head sold or enough to fill three freight cars.

Charles Johnson, successful Pig Club Member, won \$100.00 from Seaboard Railway Co. with which to attend National Club Congress at Chicago.

31 Fat Pig Club members made a profit of \$115.78 and won \$88.00

6 Purebred Pig Club members showed a profit of \$21.42 and won \$36.00.

Agent assisted farmers in buying & selling stock (not including hogs) for \$3,683.83.

Amount of cream sold for buttermaking, \$6,000.00

160 purebred Guernsey females in county and approx. 50 bulls

Fifteen Dairy Calf Members showed a profit of \$163.80 and

won \$80.00 in premiums.

80 animals tested for tuberculosis and plans being made for

"area testing" of the county if we can finance it

Assisted farmers in selling thru live poultry cars 4530 lbs

of poultry and 82 crates of eggs. Money returns--approx. \$2681.30

9,450 lbs of Pyrotol secured at a saving to farmers of \$1890.00

121 farmers taken on 4-day Farm Tour

Two Farmers' Club organized, Wightman & Maskerville.

State Fair premiums won for adults---\$125.00

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