

lesson, it is this: Empty pocket-books on the farm do not turn the wheels  
of industry in our cities".

\*\*\*\*\*

and pasture crops. Along with these changed practices on a very high percentage of the county's farms has come an increase in the number of livestock kept on the farms. The trend is very definitely toward greater numbers of beef cattle, dairy cows and sheep. A number of people are going into the raising of turkeys and chickens on a commercial scale. The development of more and better pastures continue at a rapid rate as constantly increasing amounts of phosphate and lime are being used on both new and old pastures.

It appears now that we are in the peak of the cattle cycle price wise. Next year's prices will be lower than this year and likely will be lower each succeeding year for two or three years.

The Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Program, furnishing phosphate and lime as grant of aid material, has been a tremendous help in obtaining greatly increased acreage of pasture and hay.

The agents feel that in the coming year, with the help and cooperation of the several agriculture agencies, great strides can be made toward further improvement of the county's agriculture and the well being of its people.

Increased net farm income during the past years has brought farmers to chance to improve their farms and buildings and living standards in general. It is essential to the welfare of all groups that such net income is available to efficient farmers in years to come.

The importance of a good net farm income is very aptly stated by Dr. Paul Saunders, Editor of the Southern Planter, "The farm family has become a major customer of industry. Agriculture has become a dynamic force in the American economy. If this generation has learned one economic

to feed and clothe, of social security, burdensome surpluses, more inflation, leaner hogs and just over the horizon dried whole milk. We find our farm population steadily decreasing with only 1 person in 7 living on a farm and a trend toward larger and fewer farms. With the above we have labor-saving machinery and modern farm "know how" to help to make the family farm of today different from what it was a few years ago. Forty years ago it took 35 man hours to produce an acre of corn yielding 26 bushels; in recent years it took only 17 man hours per acre and the yield was 36 bushels.

It is generally agreed that the farm policy lag will be with us for at least another year. There is nothing in today's outlook to indicate that the serious gap between farm technology and farm policy will be closed or narrowed during the next twelve months. This situation, usually called the "farm problem", is of mounting concern, not only to farmers directly involved, but to industries selling to the farmer and industries buying from him. Coupled with today's muscular technology, a healthy agriculture means bigger markets and stable prices plus abundant supplies.

During the past nine years the farmers of the county have shown a greatly increased interest in the proper use of their land. In this section of the state usually the amount of moisture available is the limited factor in crop yields. Thus, it is tremendously important that rainfall be conserved. A large amount of our rainfall is lost by run-off which also carries with it a serious problem of soil erosion. These two great problems must be solved if we are to maintain a high standard of living among farm people.

The Extension T.V.A. Farm Unit Demonstration farms in the county are an excellent example of what can be accomplished by proper land use. These farmers have shown the way by decreasing row crops and increasing hay

Survey Report of Rockbridge County and this report was distributed to farmers, real estate agencies and school libraries. A supply was also made available for the teaching program for the three vocational agriculture schools in the county and for use of the 25 persons attending the Agronomy School held for credit at the Fairfield High School in January.

Messrs. G. W. Patteson, A. J. Harris, and Z. M. K. Fulton completed the work with and published during the year Bulletin 510 entitled "Classification of Land Ownership in Rockbridge County" of the Virginia Agriculture Experiment Station. This bulletin was extremely well gotten up and is being widely used throughout the county. Recently a request was received from the Superintendent of schools office for twenty-five additional copies for use in connection with the teaching program.

Assistance was given Mr. M. Burks Donald, purebred Hampshire swine breeder, in promoting and conducting a tour and meeting of his breeding and feeding operations. The tour included visits to his modern farrowing house and feeding barn.

The agent attended the Institute of Rural Affairs at V. P. I. along with eight men from the county. A total of twenty-nine men and women attended this outstanding annual event.

#### X. COUNTY TRENDS

We find ourselves today in an era of rapidly expanding population

looking ahead - in order to better understand the consequences of results to be expected from making various adjustments to changes affecting the farm, the home and the family members.

There is a growing appreciation that the complexities facing modern-day farm families are such that they have to make a much more careful analysis of their problems and opportunities, and develop a more carefully outlined course of action in relation thereto, if their efforts are to be repaid with adequate economic returns and family satisfactions.

As time permitted the county and home demonstration agents continue to work under this program with three families. The Kinnear, Moore and Perkins families have all made some progress with their planning and good results are expected to follow during the coming year. At least one additional family will be added to the program this next year.

The forestry program included instructions on management of farm woodland, fire prevention, selective cutting and reforestation. The agents cooperated with the State Forest Service in educational work on this program. Field meetings were held with the assistance of the Extension Forester at which time various good forestry practices were discussed with the group. 4-H club boys and girls were also given instruction on management of woodland.

An area forestry meeting and dinner was held at Warm Springs, Virginia to review accomplishments and to plan for the coming year. Virginia Forest Inc. arranged for the meeting with the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company as host.

There were obtained during the year 250 copies of the Soil

described the event as a "momentous occasion" in the history of Virginia agriculture and stated further that he wished to thank the heirs of Harold F. McCormick for making this living memorial possible. Dr. Hutcheson accepted a portrait of the inventor on behalf of the college.

Dr. H. N. Young, director of the Virginia Experiment Station, cited the invention of the reaper as "one of the principal opening wedges" in a tremendous expansion of American agriculture.

Roy C. Hopkins, vice president of the Virginia Electric and Power Company, presented V.P.I. with a painting of McCormick successfully demonstrating his reaper for his family.

The Cyrus Hall McCormick Farm (Walnut Hill), consisting of 635 acres was acquired in February 1954 by the V.P.I. Educational Foundation as a gift from the McCormick family. On January 1, 1955 the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station received the farm from the V.P.I. Educational Foundation, starting its operation as a branch station of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station on July 1, 1956.

There are approximately 450 acres of open land and 185 acres of forest on the farm. Approximately 250 acres are in permanent pasture, 60 acres in supplemental pasture, 30 acres in alfalfa (50 - 60 acres planned), and 90 acres in a rotation of corn, small grain and clover-grass hay.

The livestock flocks and herds consist of 150 breeding ewes and 115 beef cows.

The farm and home development approach in extension is intended to achieve more satisfying living for farm families through intelligent planning for the future regarding the organization and operation of their farm and their home. Emphasis is placed on the future - on planning and

V.P.I. Judging this year's contests were: Mrs. Phyllis Moir, Editor, Woman's News, Roanoke Times; Dr. Leonard Feddens, Extension Horticulturist, V.P.I.; and Mr. Fred A. Cross, Assistant Cashier, Colonial American National Bank, Roanoke, Virginia.

Messrs. Burn, government official from West Germany, and Bing, his escort and interpreter, visited in the county several days during the first of the month. They accompanied the agent and judges on a tour of the Buffalo Improvement League one afternoon and the next day toured the Experiment Station at Steeles Tavern and visited several nearby farms.

Buffalo Community received an honorable mention award and prize money of \$50.00.

#### IX. MISCELLANEOUS

The twenty-ninth annual summer school for rural ministers was held this summer at V.P.I. with approximately one hundred twenty-five in attendance. Six ministers attended the school from Rockbridge County. Early in the year the agent notified each of the ministers in the county of the time of the school and urged them to attend. Ruritan Clubs and governing bodies of the churches were contacted regarding scholarships for sending ministers and their wives to the school.

The farm on which Cyrus McCormick invented the reaper (Steeles Tavern, Virginia) was dedicated August 15, 1958 as V.P.I.'s new Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Experiment Station.

A fair group of farmers attended the first field day and approximately one-half were from Rockbridge County.

Dr. John R. Hutcheson, president of V.P.I. Educational Foundation

Tuesday, March 11, 1952 and has been in continuous operation since that time. The officers at present are: President, E. P. Glenn; Vice President, Dr. George West Diehl; Secretary, Miss Mary Margaret Deacon; and Treasurer, E. Malcomb Reid.

One of the many projects engaged in at present is that of developing the Palmer School as a Community Center. The Palmer High School was consolidated with the Collierscove High School and the Effinger High School was created. The elementary grades were continued at Palmer. In the fall of 1957, The Buffalo Community League inaugurated the movement for the use of the vacated property as a community center. Under its management, the property was secured for this purpose. It is now operated by a Board of Managers representing six of the community organizations - Oxford Presbyterian Church, Mt. Horsh Methodist Church, Effinger Ruritan Club, Hurst Woman's Club, Palmer Home Demonstration Club, and Rapp's Church as well as the Buffalo Community League which still continues to serve as "the spark plug".

The work of remodelling the school for community purposes, aided by the staff of the County Agent and specialists on architecture and landscaping from V.P.I. This work is still in progress and will continue as finances come in for it.

The Palmer Community League was represented at this year's awards luncheon by Dr. George W. Diehl, Vice President, and Nelson S. Anderson, original Secretary of the League when formed in 1952). Also present was David A. Jackson, County Agent. The luncheon was held at Blue Patrick Henry Hotel November 17 and was sponsored by the Agricultural Committee of the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Extension Service of

shipping plant foods to the point of usage on the farm rather than to a mixing plant to be mixed, based down, later ground, remixed, handled a second time, bagged and finally transported at additional freight or trucking expense to the point of consumption. In addition, some sort of filler or conditioner must be used in practically every mixed fertilizer. This costs money and adds to the weight which must be bagged and transported.

Substantially all agronomists agree that the important aspect of fertilizer usage is to apply the required and economically correct amount of plant food - that for most crops the time and method of application make little or no difference in results.

Four farmers in the county each bought one of the latest type "three-way" Gandy spreaders during the year.

Community Improvement League - The Buffalo Community Improvement League continued in 1960 the good work started in the previous year. The League functioned during the year as the single unit in the county of its kind. Regular monthly meetings were held and a number of worth while projects were undertaken and completed. A community picnic was held during the summer and a community fair was promoted during the early fall in cooperation with the Ruritan Club, F.F.A. Chapter and 4-H Clubs serving the larger area. An old meeting house building has been restored and is being used for religious meetings.

The League purchased during the past year the abandoned Palmer Graded School for \$500 and are remodeling same for use as their Community Center. Plans for the remodeling of the building were made through the assistance of Mr. C. D. Wheary, Agriculture Extension Engineer of V.P.I.

The League was formed in Palmer School, on North Buffalo Creek,

each Wednesday by Extension Agents in the county or their guests.

Extension T.V.A. Selected Use Program - In January of 1955 Mr. G. R. Epperson, Associate Extension Agronomist at V.F.I., notified the agents that Rockbridge County had been selected as one of six counties in the state (outside Tennessee Valley Watershed) to demonstrate with selected farmers the value of high analysis T.V.A. fertilizer materials. The objective of the program is "To develop and promote an educational selected use sales program for wide scale introduction and adoption of T.V.A.'s fertilizer materials and high analysis mixture made with T.V.A.'s fertilizer materials, and to promote those fertilization practices which will lead to maximum efficiency in fertilizer use".

In the last twenty years tremendous advances have been made in the development and production of high analysis fertilizer materials.

Very recently an entirely new type of fertilizer spreader has been developed and is now in production. This spreader has three separate compartments, one for nitrogen, one for phosphate and one for potash. The rate of application of each can be separately regulated so that literally any ratio or analysis can be applied.

Concentrated high analysis, readily dirillable materials, plus the three compartment spreader, make possible the following advantages to a farmer whose farming system, land terrain, crops, etc., permit applying plant food by this new method:

1. A saving in plant food costs up to 35% - probably averaging about 25%.
2. 35% to 50% less tonnage to haul and handle.
3. The application of any plant food ratio - even to changing the ratio in one portion of a field as compared with another.

Needless to say, the impressive savings stem primarily from

through their Cooperative.

The Shen-Valley Buying Station was completed and opened on October 7, 1958. The station is located near Greenville in Augusta County and is to serve principally livestock producers in Augusta and Rockbridge Counties. The station opened with a large group attending during the day and evening and should promise to be a great service to the 150 members of the Coop in Rockbridge County.

The agents along with approximately 55 members of the local unit of the Shen-Valley Meat Packers, Inc. attended their annual meeting at the Virginia House Restaurant. Mr. Dick Reeves and Mr. Swecker, public relations officer and buyer, respectively, reported concerning the operations of the Coop last year. The Coop is in real good financial shape and appears to be definitely "out of the woods".

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation - For the past several years the local ASC office was located in a separate building from the Extension office but now both are housed in the same building. This move has brought about an ever closer working relationship between the agencies and added conveniences and help for our farmers. The county agents assisted the ASC Committee in developing the program for the county and in holding their elections. The Extension force publicized information on the time to sign up, what could best be used and how they could best be used, and how they could get the maximum benefit out of their program. All farmers were encouraged to take full advantage of the benefits to be derived from participating in this program.

During the year arrangements were worked out for representatives of the agency to present phases of their programs and work several times a year over Station WREL. This is a farm news program put on for fifteen minutes

The agent attended the State Annual Meeting of the Virginia Soil Conservation Districts as a supervisor and appeared on the program on January 19. Two skits given by this group depicted the right and wrong method of holding board meetings. The agent played the part of secretary to both groups.

Throughout the year the agents cooperated with the Supervisors of the Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District and the technicians of the Soil Conservation Service. Many individual contacts were made by the agents to encourage farmers to participate in the district program, and that of the Soil Conservation Service in working out plans on individual farms. Arrangements were made for representatives of the Soil Conservation Service to present different phases of their work throughout the year over Station WREL which was opened in Lexington on November 15, 1948.

Shen-Valley Meat Packers Inc. - This cooperative, one of the largest in the eastern United States, has been in operation for the past nine years and has exerted a good influence on livestock prices paid in Virginia and nearby states during that time.

The agents along with Ray Hotinger, Nelson Anderson, Earl Paxton and Leonard Hotinger met at Staunton along with a committee from Augusta County to consider the feasibility of establishing a buying station by Shen-Valley Meat Packers Inc. It was decided to establish such a buying station preferably about one-half way between Staunton and Lexington and on or near Route 11. A similar station established approximately two years ago in Madison County has proven highly successful and the two committees felt this would be true of the proposed new station and that it would aid greatly to the convenience in the two counties in the marketing livestock

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**GRASS LAND FARMING**



Alfalfa On A Farm In Botetourt County

Perennial hays and pasture are the backbone of the livestock farming and dairying in the district. The acreage of land suitable for crop production is limited, but there are large acreages capable of producing excellent hay and pasture. Many critical slopes that eroded under row cropping in former years are now protected with grass.

Alfalfa has become the principal hay crop. Several farmers now use the first cutting for silage, a thing rarely done before. Orchard grass is often seeded with the alfalfa especially in swales and on steep slopes since alfalfa alone is not sufficient to prevent erosion under these conditions. More than 15,000 acres of perennial hays have been established on district cooperators' farms.

Kentucky blue grass and white dutch clover are native pasture plants in the district. However, regular applications of lime and fertilizing materials must be applied to get the yields and ground cover needed. Orchard grass, Kentucky 31 fescue, ladino clover, and lespedeza in various combinations are seeded for the establishment of new pastures and where reseedsings on old ones are needed.

Some 63,000 acres of pasture have been treated and over 15,000 acres have been seeded under the district's promotion. ACP cost share has been a big factor in getting so much of this conservation practice on the land.

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## CONTOUR STRIP CROPPING



Corn—Hay In Alternate Contour Strips

Leech Farm, Rockbridge County

Contour strip cropping has been one of the most popular and effective conservation practices in the district. Strip cropping not only helps to maintain the physical productivity of the land but also tends to increase yields by conserving moisture and reducing the loss of top soil and fertilizer.

Strip cropping is not a single practice, but a combination of good farming practices. It employs contour cultivation, sod waterways, crop rotations, cover cropping and other practices. The strip cropping system maintains the maximum amount of ground cover for the greatest possible portion of the year and provides for the growing of row crops in a systematic arrangement with close growing crops which serve as barriers against erosion.

Over 16,000 acres of contour strips have been laid out and established in The Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District. Today, many of the strips have given way to permanent vegetative cover due to the trend toward more grassland farming. Many of the fields that once displayed the trademarks of a conservation farmer are now in beautiful stands of alfalfa. However, most of the farmers, having realized the value of contour striping, still follow the strip lines when they reseed.

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## FARM PLANNING



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7	14	Pasture
8	10	Cropland
9	2	Household
10	17	Pasture

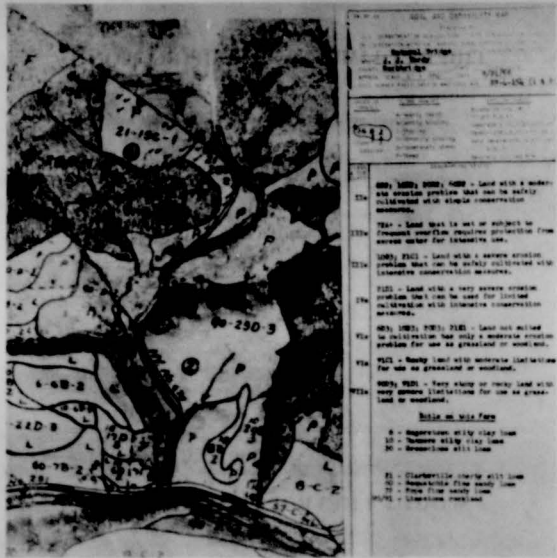
### LEGEND

Roads  
Public  
Farm  
Fences  
Farm  
Boundary

These decisions are then recorded in the Plan of Conservation Operations and outlined on a Conservation Plan Map for the farmer.

In the twenty years of operation, 1,920 farmers have become cooperators with the district. Of these, 1,576 have prepared complete conservation farm plans. Many changes in farm ownership have taken place since the district began operation. This has been greatly accelerated during the past ten years. At present there are 1,139 complete farm plans being carried out.

## FARM PLANNING



Helping farmers plan and apply complete conservation plans for their farms is one of the primary objectives of the Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District. This means using each acre for which it is best suited and treating it according to its needs for continued use and sustained production.

To help accomplish this the district, through the Soil Conservation Service, furnishes a land capability map showing soil type, slope and degree of erosion and the assistance of a planning technician. It is the technician's job to interpret this capability map to the farmer and to point out the alternate uses and treatments for each acre on the farm that will result in a sound conservation plan. With this information the farmer decides how he is going to use his land within its capability and the conservation practices he is going to apply.

## WOODLAND CONSERVATION



Eighteen Year Old Loblolly Pine Planting,  
Jefferson National Forest, Natural Bridge, Va.

Woodland conservation is a very important part of the total conservation efforts of the district and involves numerous woodland practices. Among these are tree planting, woodland management and improvement, selective cutting, and protection from fire and grazing.

The district, through the SCS Technicians, endeavors to develop woodland appreciation among all its cooperators so they may realize the need for and plan good woodland practices on their farms.

Not only does a well managed wood lot provide additional income for the farmer, but also provides an excellent habitat for wildlife, protects the land from erosion and reduces runoff, thus improving the quality of our water and helps to regulate stream flow.

The Virginia Division of Forestry is cooperating with the district in their woodland program by furnishing the services of a trained forester to assist cooperators with management problems and marking and estimating for harvesting. The Division also administers an excellent fire control program throughout the district.



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### FARM DRAINAGE

Increased production by draining of flat lands, formerly too wet to produce to their fullest potential, has enabled farmers to use protective grass cover on more of their sloping fields. To date, 32 miles of open ditches have been constructed and 39,299 feet of the tile have been laid. The district encourages the use of tile where it is practical for drainage. Properly installed tile drains require little maintenance and are long lasting.



Digging Open Drain Ditch On Buhrman Farm  
Botetourt County



Tile Lines Being Laid on Roy Bell Farm, Craig County

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C. W. Sandridge, 1950

C. W. Sandridge of the Brownsburg community was the first farmer in Rockbridge County to cooperate with the Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District in preparing and applying a complete conservation plan for his farm.

It was through the efforts of SCS Technicians Carl Lively and Aubrey Holmes and District Conservationist C. E. Koontz that Mr. Sandridge decided to become the guinea pig for Rockbridge County on April 17, 1940. With the help of the technicians he prepared and put into operation within the next few years a conservation plan for his 154 acre farm; contour strip cropping for his cultivated land, sod waterways, conservation crop rotations, improved pastures, wildlife borders, woodland improvement and protection, and the rebuilding of fences to fit the lay of the land and retire steep land to vegetative cover.

Neighbors laughed at the crooked strips and said he could never follow them. That was 20 years ago and Mr. Sandridge is still using the strips. His only regret is that the striping was not begun 20 years sooner. At the time the plan was prepared yields were low and gullies had begun to creep up the draws, some so large they could not be crossed even with horse drawn machinery. Today, sod waterways have replaced the gullies and yields have tripled. A 40 cow grade A dairy now provides a comfortable income for Mr. Sandridge and son Charles M., who some day will take over the farm in much better condition than his father received it 24 years ago.

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## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



Wildlife Food Patch On Herb Chittum Farm, Rockbridge County

Wildlife population has increased greatly during the twenty years of operation of the Soil Conservation District. This is evident from the increasing number of hunting licenses sold each year.

No doubt this increase has been influenced by the conservation farming method of the farmers within the district. Contour strip-cropping, though primarily for erosion control, provides food and cover for farm game, especially the bob-white quail. Many farmers have planted borders between woodland and cropland which provide food and cover and utilized areas, otherwise useless, for wildlife.

The district has cooperated with the Game Commission by furnishing technical assistance for constructing water holes and making clearings on National Forest Land. The Game Commission also furnishes seed for planting food patches.

County Governments have cooperated by furnishing prizes for food patch planting contests among boys and girls in the district.

Farm fish ponds provide recreation for the owners as well as their town friends. Four hundred seventeen ponds have been stocked and are managed for fish production in the district.

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1939  
Sericea Growing  
On Thin Shale Slope

C. A. MAIER  
1959  
Posts Being Used For New Broiler  
House Were Pine Seedlings In 1939

C. A. Maier of the Spec Community in Botetourt County became the first cooperator in the Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District when he signed a district agreement March 22, 1940. The SCS technician, E. R. Minnich, assisted Mr. Maier and his son Bernard in developing a conservation plan for each of the 111 acres in their farm. The Maiers who had tasted soil conservation as TVA demonstration farmers in 1936 (when County Agent Billy Lyne and Agricultural Engineer J. A. Waller started them contour strip cropping on a field and Forester Wilbur O'Byrne had helped in a bit of reforestation) were eager to spread conservation over the entire farm. Some of the practices applied were contour strip rotations on all cultivated fields, treating permanent ratures, control of gullies with rock dams, kudzu and sericea, and planting pine seedlings on steep, thin areas. Some of the neighbors are reported to have ridiculed the crooked rows around the hills and the extensive applications of lime and fertilizer, but Mr. Maier stuck to his plan as he found continuous improvement in both yields of crops and appearance of the farm.

With eighty-four years behind him, Mr. Maier has turned the farming over to son Bernard. He now uses his retirement and a trusty wheelbarrow to construct water impoundment structures on some of the farm water courses.

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Landowners "Voting In" The District

Twenty years ago farmers in Rockbridge County and the magisterial districts of Amsterdam and Buchanan in Botetourt County voted to form a soil conservation district. At the suggestion of J. M. Peck, of Fincastle, they named this state subdivision the Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District after that famous landmark of natural erosion in Rockbridge County. The district received its certificate of organization September 5, 1939. The original district boundaries were extended in 1945 to include all of Botetourt County, Craig County, and Rockbridge County, comprising approximately 953,000 acres.

The district was organized to acquaint the people in these counties of the seriousness of soil erosion, depletion of timber, wildlife and other natural resources, and loss of water; and to educate them in the way of the most effective practices and procedures; and to assist them in establishing practices which will result in the conservation of soil, water and other resources.

The first district board of supervisors were: P. A. Firebaugh, W. P. Whipple, T. E. Jamison, L. H. Teaford and G. B. Allison. Members who have served since, besides present board members, are C. A. Firebaugh, L. R. Givens, Richard M. Watson, R. H. Burtner, L. Y. Fields, R. W. Goode, and H. L. Kinnear.



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## NATURAL BRIDGE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Providing Leadership in Soil Conservation

Assisted by the Following Agencies:

### FEDERAL

Soil Conservation Service \_\_\_\_\_ Technical Assistance in Conservation  
Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) \_\_\_\_\_ ACP Cost-Sharing  
for Conservation Practices  
Forest Service (F.S.) \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Protection  
Farmers Home Administration (F.H.A.) \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Loans  
Fish and Wildlife Service \_\_\_\_\_ Fish Stock

### STATE OF VIRGINIA

Extension Service (Co. Agt.) \_\_\_\_\_ Education and Information  
Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries \_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Planting Materials  
Vocational Agriculture (Vo-Ag) \_\_\_\_\_ Training Youth in Conservation  
Va. Div. of Forestry \_\_\_\_\_ Forest Management and Fire Protection  
Va. Dept. of Highways \_\_\_\_\_ Roadbank Erosion Control

### STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Administrative Agency of Soil Conservation District Program

### SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Personnel Assisting

Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District

Botetourt County

P. D. Hughston \_\_\_\_\_ Conservationist  
J. W. Cronise \_\_\_\_\_ Aid

Craig County

Leo E. Painter \_\_\_\_\_ Conservationist  
R. F. Givens \_\_\_\_\_ Aid

Rockbridge County

A. B. Hawkins \_\_\_\_\_ Conservationist  
Earl T. Edwards \_\_\_\_\_ Aid



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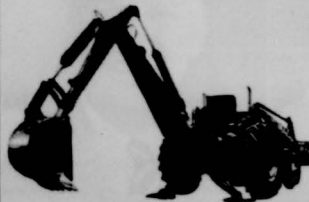
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#### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The district supervisors have been continuously aware of the importance of people being educated to the need of natural resource conservation and have solicited help from many sources to obtain this portion of its objectives.

Business concerns, industry, organizations, radio and TV stations, and the press have given generous support to the district's efforts. Cooperation of all agricultural agencies within the district has been outstanding.

In addition to use of news articles, and radio and TV programs, the district has sponsored tours, demonstrations, and land appreciation training in each of its counties.



Group Judging Soil At Land Appreciation School, Botetourt County



Closing Gullies, New Look Demonstration Near Fincastle, 1948

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Rockbridge County



J. Francis Ross  
Craig County



E. L. Talbot, Chm.  
Botetourt County

Natural Bridge  
District Supervisors

T. A. Brown  
Rockbridge County

David A. Jackson,  
Secy.  
Rockbridge County



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Pasture Scene In Rockbridge County Showing Partnership Pond And Watering Trough.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST TWENTY YEARS

List of Conservation Practices	Total Applied
Conservation Crop Rotations	42,531 Acres
Contour Stripcropping	16,382 Acres
Crop Residue Utilization	8,501 Acres
Contour Orchards	298 Acres
Pasture Improvement	63,168 Acres
Pasture Planting	15,258 Acres
Perennial Grass and Legumes	15,375 Acres
Waterway Development	446 Acres
Woodland Improvement	13,290 Acres
Tree Planting	1,122 Acres
Fish Pond Improvement	417 No.
Wildlife Area Improvement	421 Acres
Closed Drains	39,299 Feet
Open Drains	32 Miles
Pond Construction	665 No.
Irrigation Systems	15 No.
Spring Development	74 No.
Channel Improvement	12,270 Feet
District Cooperators	1,920 No.
Complete Plans	1,576 No.



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**TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY REPORT**

of the

**NATURAL BRIDGE  
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

(Botetourt, Craig and Rockbridge Counties)

BY THE DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

December, 1959

Emmett L. Talbot \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

M. M. Sterrett, Jr. \_\_\_\_\_ Vice-Chairman

J. Francis Ross \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

T. A. Brown

David A. Jackson \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

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**TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE**

IN THE

**NATURAL BRIDGE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

DECEMBER 1959



The Natural Bridge of Virginia

come increased acreage seeded to small grains. This is particularly true as to seeding of barley and oats. Due to the use of improved seed and better fertilization greatly increased yields are being obtained. Farmers were given information on improving varieties of small grain through meetings, circular letters, newspaper articles and individual farm visits. Many farmers are following the practice of seeding mixtures of small grains in the fall and early winter and spring grazing. The use of improved varieties of seed is very noticeable.

#### VIII. GENERAL WORK

Soil and Water Conservation - County Agents assisted in organizing soil conservation districts throughout the state by providing educational leadership to the movement and guidance in organizational procedure. Today they work with the leadership of the districts, soil conservation technicians, and personnel of other interested groups in promoting conservation practices, such as contour farming, farm ponds, cover crops, and proper land use.

The agent is serving this year as a supervisor of the Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District and Secretary of the same. A special undertaking of the Board this year is to prepare and publish a report in connection with the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the District. It is hoped to obtain a large number of ads for this publication and to realize a considerable sum of money for use in the District's operations. Natural Bridge of Virginia has agreed to take the cover and back pages of the publication at \$150. The agent is heading a committee to edit this publication and make final arrangements for printing and publication of the report.

most of our alfalfa producers either applied granulated heptachlor or used it as a spray last year in adequately controlling the alfalfa weevil.

In 1960 our alfalfa producers were, in most instances, able to control the weevil through application early in the year of heptachlor in granular form or in fertilizer - heptachlor mixtures. For those who were unable to apply the material before the dead-lime for its use, reasonable control of the insects was obtained during the growing season by the use of methoxychlor or malathion as a spray. During the late summer it was deemed safe, by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Mr. J. O. Rowell, Extension Entomologist at V.P.I., to allow the use of heptachlor in granular form or in fertilizer - heptachlor mixtures. This material only to be used if applied after harvest of the last cutting of the alfalfa in the fall and up to the 15th of October. At least seventy-five percent of our producers applied the above mentioned material and it is believed will obtain good control of the over-wintering weevils in their alfalfa fields.

Farmers generally were given information as to the best methods of seeding and fertilizing alfalfa. This was accomplished by use of radio, newspapers, circular letters, meetings and individual farm visits.

Small Grains - Small grains are produced by Rockbridge County farmers both for market and as feed for their own livestock. They are considered to be quite helpful in establishing farm income. The use of adapted seed, good fertilization, and suitable crop rotation has been basic to a steady increase in yields. Since 1940 these increases have been noted: Wheat 15.5 bushels in 1940 against 26 in 1958; Oats, 21.5 and 37; Barley, 27 and 34.5. The total value of field crops in 1959 amounted to \$533,921.

Along with the marked reduction in the acreage planted to corn has

years, alfalfa acreage has increased from about fifteen hundred acres to more than six thousand acres. The increase in beef cattle, sheep and dairy cows is causing farmers to look for better hay for them. Along with the increased acreage of alfalfa is a growing realization on the part of farmers generally that greater amounts of fertilizer must be applied at time of seeding, and as top dressing, if a good stand is to be retained for a long period of years.

A very grave threat to our alfalfa crop made its appearance in the county in 1957, namely the Alfalfa Weevil. Since little damage had occurred from this insect the previous year our alfalfa producers found it hard to believe our repeated warning that it could happen in 1958. About fifty percent of our growers were affected to some degree by this insect in 1958 and a considerable amount of spray was used. In spite of this many farmers lost several cuttings, and a goodly number entire stands.

The members of the Agronomy Committee and Extension Agents were determined to get information as to the best control methods of the alfalfa weevil in 1959 over to 100 percent of the growers. To this end arrangements were made on two different days to hold demonstrations concerning the use of Granulated Insectachlor for the control of alfalfa weevil, etc. The first date was rained out and the second could not be held on account of several inches of snow. From the interest manifested apparently 50 to 100 farmers would have attended. Though not held, the demonstration was a success to the point that all letters and cards plus several newspaper articles and a radio program caused the use, by one dealer alone, of more than 5 tons of the material. It is believed that more would have been sold had not these demonstrations been scheduled. As a result of such a wide-spread campaign

The Rockbridge County Agronomy School conducted by H. L. Dunton, W. W. Lewis, Dr. R. E. Blasser and agents was attended by about 50 farmers and dealers and extremely well received. Information was presented on alfalfa growing, use of fertilizers, ensilage production, and pasture treatment. Attending from out of the county were county agents Lester Dalton and Jack Copenhaver. The meeting was at the Virginia House Restaurant.

Conferences were held with individuals concerning the latest recommendations about controlling the alfalfa weevil.

Better pasture planning and management are "MUSTS" on the livestock farm. This becomes increasingly true when livestock numbers are on the increase and prices received are at lower levels. It is at a time like this that it really becomes important that meat and milk be produced at the lowest possible cost by the farmer. Our pasture improvement program is directed towards farmer realization that they can have more milk in the bucket, more weight on the beef cattle and sheep, and more pounds of pork and poultry by going to a grassland program in whole or in part.

Alfalfa - Alfalfa is becoming one of the leading hay crops in Rockbridge County. Large numbers of farmers in the county who were unable in the past to produce alfalfa successfully are now finding ways and means of doing so. This is due to the close following of recommendations made by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, and which are widely brought to their attention by the County Extension Agents. Better varieties of alfalfa, such as Williamsburg and Atlantic, will give added emphasis to our alfalfa program in the coming year.

Our alfalfa acreage increased during the year in spite of unfavorable weather conditions for seeding this fall. During the past ten

with proper fertilizing of these crops and supplemental pastures. A large part of the program of pasture improvement is due to materials and assistance offered through Agricultural Conservation Program of ASC.

All of the more progressive farmers in the county are now making a practice of fertilizing their permanent pasture with a greater number adopting this practice each year. While phosphate is still the chief fertilizer used on permanent pastures, a number of farmers are using a more complete fertilizer, along with lime, for this purpose.

Pasture Improvement Program - Virginia has more than 3,800,000 acres of land in pasture. County Agents working with local pasture committees have promoted the use of fertilizer, lime and adapted grasses and clovers. Radio and TV programs, newspaper articles, and pasture tours have been used to promote the pasture-improvement program. By using improved practices farmers have increased animal units per acre. On many farms the carrying capacities of pasture have been doubled or tripled in recent years.

Several years ago Honorable M. S. Battle, former Governor of Virginia, established the Virginia Pasture Improvement Committee with Mr. Walter S. Newman, President of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, as chairman. This committee has as its main purpose the overall promotion and improvement of pastures in the State of Virginia.

The establishment of the County Pasture Committee and the results of its work to date in obtaining acreage seeded to pasture and in improving grazing practices, along with pasture renovation and fertilization, show great promise in the years ahead for this very fundamental and essential program.

Approximately 40 dairymen and guests attended the Annual Meeting of the Rockbridge Artificial Breeding Association. The meeting followed a dinner served by the ladies of the Trinity Methodist Church. Reports showed continued interest in the build up of the Association and that the Association has held its own during the past year despite competition from Curtis Candy. Mr. Armstrong, Manager of the Breeding Center at Rocky Mount, showed slides to illustrate his very interesting and informative talk. He asked the membership to aid in reaching the goal of 75,000 first services in 1960.

The Alleghany-Rockbridge Dairy Herd Improvement Association has grown consistently over the years, and to the point that it was necessary to add a second unit. Twenty-eight of the leading and larger dairymen in Rockbridge are members of the two Associations with 1,411 cows on test. At its Annual Meeting in April it was thought best to hold quarterly meetings of the Association's Board of Directors.

#### VII. AGRONOMY

For the past several years the ASC, SCS and Extension have worked very closely together on agronomy and other proper land use problems. This working relationship was greatly improved by the action of the County Board of Supervisors in purchasing a building of sufficient size to house the agricultural agencies under a single roof. This building is located just off the Court House Square and is very convenient to all citizens of the county. Until this move was completed the units were housed in different buildings in Lexington.

The main phases of the Extension agronomy program consists of pasture improvement, demonstrations on weed control in permanent pastures, increasing alfalfa acreage, improving varieties of small grains along

Dairying - Dairying is a very rapidly expanding industry in the county, and at present represents about one-fourth of the total farm income. At the same time the average production per cow is a great deal less than it was ten or fifteen years ago. The agents, realizing that something must be done to improve the dairy cattle industry of the county, established long-time goals which are designed to bring about more economical production of dairy products. These consist of:

1. Better pastures, both permanent and supplemental
2. High quality hay
3. Higher producing cows.

One of the great needs was for better quality cows and it was felt this could best be accomplished through artificial breeding.

The Rockbridge Artificial Breeding Association was organized through the efforts of the county agents and began operation in July of 1947. A great deal of assistance is still being rendered the association, which at the present time has 1715 cows signed to be bred. Approximately ninety-five hundred calves have been dropped on farms since the organization date of the association as the result of cows bred artificially. A wonderful lot of heifer calves are being grown out on our dairy farms and it is felt certain they will go far toward realizing the goal of higher producing cows. Many of the heifers resulting from artificial breeding, are now in production and will be closely followed as to their milking records. Considerable progress was made during the year in perfecting the organization and work of the breeding association.

The Association again furnished the services of a full-time inseminator, Mr. C. W. Starr served in this capacity along with Mr. J. J. Tardy as relief man. While Mr. Tardy has served in this capacity for a number of years, he has a heavy work load as an operating dairyman.

head of sheep.

As in the case of most counties the sheep killing dog presents one of the greatest drawbacks to an increase in sheep numbers. It is believed that Rockbridge County made real progress along this line with the recent employment by the County Board of Supervisors of a full time man as Dog Warden. Many stray dogs have been rounded up and disposed of during the past year.

The annual sheep shearing school held this year with Augusta County was promoted to help farmers maximize returns from their wool crop. Many farmers and Vo-Ag and 4-H members came to learn or improve their technique.

Out of five entries in the 1960 Returns-Per-Ewe Contest, sponsored by the Virginia Purebred Sheep Growers Association, the county growers had two winners. Harold Hockman won first and W. I. Lunsford won 4th in the large flock division.

Assistance was given farmers in cooperatively marketing their wool. 25,500 pounds of wool were assembled at the county seat in Lexington. This represents approximately sixty percent of wool produced in the county and this year's pool netted the growers 56¢ per pound on clear tied basis. The County Sheep Producers Association decided to pool their wool with United Wool Growers Association of Harrisonburg, Virginia. It was also decided to continue the holding of special graded lamb sales at the Rockbridge Livestock Market in Buena Vista. Five such sales were held and resulted in improved prices for the lambs.

All flock owners were urged to head their flocks with good purebred rams, and the number doing so is increasing.

as well as beef producers.

For the past couple years the Extension Livestock Committee has been very much concerned regarding the possibility that the regular weekly market might not continue to operate. To head off any possibility and to help strengthen the market the Committee worked out an agreement with the Livestock Market owners concerning physical improvements of the property. The Extension sponsored sales consignors agreed to pay an extra 50c per head toward the cost of putting the market entirely under roof and the building of some additional new pens. The work cost \$4,000 of which \$2,000 was advanced by sales consignors.

The Shen-Valley Coop with approximately 150 local farmers as members has recently opened a buying station just over the county line North of Lexington. This will provide a market for butcher stock at all seasons of the year with fair prices paid the producer. He may sell on foot or for a carcass price. Anyone can sell with the Cooperative and may withdraw any animal from the station if he believes he can get a higher price elsewhere. The locating of this market near Rockbridge was influenced by Ray Hotinger of Lexington, a director, committeeman and the county agent.

Many other methods are used as in any program - personal contacts, letters, tours, shows, radio programs and newspaper articles - all with the thought of improving the beef cattle industry in Rockbridge County.

Sheep - For the past several years efforts have been devoted toward obtaining an increase in sheep numbers in the county. Flock owners were encouraged to keep more of their best early ewe lambs for replacements and to increase the size of flocks. During the year a number of new flocks of sheep have been established and this has resulted in the county advancing into the group of ten counties of the state with more than ten thousand

It is no longer necessary to make in-field inspections of consigned cattle. The producer is educated and many farmers never have any rejected.

It is no longer necessary for a feeder to scour the countryside searching for good stock. Here in one pen they stand weighing within 50 pounds of each other, vaccinated, of the same grade, and of beef ancestry. Twenty per cent of the feeder yearlings stayed in the county.

Here he can also find fine beef heifers, many purebred, guaranteed open, and ready to join his herd as replacement stock to produce choice and fancy cattle. Producers bought many of these heifers offered for their herds.

Another factor which tackles the beef producers problems is that of performance testing which is fairly new but moving like an avalanche. The Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association now checks herds of W. W. Leach, Jr., Earl Paxton, W. E. Tilson and Son, Robert G. Moore, Joe Graham, Dr. Roy M. Wilson, Ralph P. Decker, P. B. Day, Alpine Farms (headquarters in Botetourt County) as well as Fred Carter. The principal is an index which reflects type as well as rate of gain. Buy a high index sire - you should get high rate of gain in calves.

Purebred breeders always influence the grade industry and it is no less true here. There are 4 Angus and 2 Hereford breeders but too many sires and dams from these breeders get out of the county. Producers were influenced to patronize these as well as the fine registered sales at the pavilions within 40 miles of Lexington at Verona and Roanoke.

The area testing program is slated to begin in this county immediately. Long overdue this far-reaching move will increase profits of dairy

to increase efficiency are quite varied and fall generally into agronomic (treated later), improved sires, increased selling weights, producing higher quality calves, efficiency of gain, buying better calves for sale as yearlings, and disease problems.

Perhaps the greatest single effort at trying to find answers to some of these is in the Extension sponsored graded feeder calf and graded yearling sales. These sales held for the past twenty years in Virginia are designed to get increased income for the farmer as well as help him face facts.

In Rockbridge County farmers received about \$16.00 per head over the current market price for 866 calves and \$15.00 per head for 2,078 yearlings. These were sold in one calf and three steer sales to buyers from Indiana to Pennsylvania and Virginia. Many remained in the county. Only fancy, choice, good and medium grades were sold in the sales. The Rockbridge County cattle sold in the four sales brought a total of \$459,561.48.

The calf sale requirements say that to sell heifers the herd must be brucellosis tested within the year. One-third of the calves sold were heifers. The minimum weight on calves is 300 pounds. Other requirements are Blackleg and Shipping Fever vaccinations. Farmers stand at the rail and compare grades and perhaps pride is one of the greater forces (as well as a higher sale price) which compels a producer to buy a better sire and foundation stock. It isn't hard for a man to figure that his neighbor who brought in a 500 pound calf will make more money than his 300 pound calf. Nor that a producer who gets 400 pounds on a yearling rather than 200 pounds over one year will have more money in his pocket.

to prove an asset to his community whenever he makes his residence.

#### H. Young Men and Woman's Work

The only Extension sponsored group in the County is the Rockbridge All Star Organization, an active alert group of 20 men and women. This group sponsored again the Public Speaking Contest along with the First National Bank who supplied awards and the Clover Creamery refreshments.

Another project added this year was the judging of record books from the county-wide 4-H projects.

The group meets quarterly for regular business such as selecting the 1960 All Star candidates Walter Perkins, William Patterson, Becky Hattan and Margaret Gale Pearson.

A new activity was the judging of Wildlife seed patches. The All Star men were furnished with the names of 4-H'ers with patches. They gave each patch a score based on selection of location and job done in raising the patch.

The group continues to plan and carry out activities to ably live up to its motto "Service".

#### VI. LIVESTOCK

Beef Cattle - The beef cattle industry in Rockbridge County is one of the primary sources of income to both small and large farmers. Most farmers have several beef or half beef cows which produce a calf crop each year. The breeds are predominately Hereford and Angus with a sprinkling of Shorthorn and crossed cattle.

The beef cattle producer as much or more than any other type farmer has felt the cost-price squeeze. He has been forced to face his problem and to come up with an answer - increase efficiency or get out. The ways

William Koogler is the son of Mr. and W. V. Koogler in the Raphine community. He has a younger brother Dougie who has been a member of the 4-H club for two years taking a very active part in the tractor program and his club and community activities.

William has been a member 10 years and has been active in the sheep, home grounds, and electrical projects as well as others - completing a total of 36 projects. He has attended the County and State tractor leader training programs and served on the tractor school planning committee. He has served as assistant instructor and instructor five years and has helped set up the operator's course each year. He has competed in County, District and State Operator's Contests. He has attended Camp Holiday Lake, Conservation Camp and Short Course becoming an All Star. He has held most offices in his 4-H club, Honor Club and County Council.

In his community, he has been active in vocational agriculture, holding many offices, church and volunteer fire department. He was a delegate to the Boys' State program.

William's influence has extended to others whom he has encouraged to take an active part in the club and county programs. He has assisted many boys in project planning and completion.

The Kooglers were one of the two host families for Enrique Coloma, IFYE delegate from Peru.

Mr. Koogler is active in community affairs and serves on the County ASC Committee.

Some reasons for William's success in club work and activities are that he recognizes and takes advantage of his opportunities and he has the wholehearted cooperation of his family.

William deserves his national honor and recognition and will continue

## GIRL'S 4-H DEMONSTRATIONS

CONTEST	WHAT TO DO AND WHERE
Public Speaking	Prepare 5-7 minute speech and present in County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Canning	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Bread Making	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Poultry Consumption	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Laundry	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Home Improvement	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Frozen Foods	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Food Preparation	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Dress Revue	Make an outfit and select accessories and model in County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Dairy Foods	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present at County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Beautification of Home Grounds	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present at County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Electric	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present at County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Share-the-Fun	Prepare and present act in February to club. If selected come to talent show in Lexington.

## APRIL

### BUSINESS MEETING

1. Demonstration  
Jr. Clubs—Introduce Fish and Habitats  
Sr. Clubs—Career Exploration
2. Fill In Records
3. Plans for attending 4-H Camps

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. Prepare for District Contest in April.
2. Tractor Operator's Contest
3. Complete plans for Rural Life Sunday
4. County Council Meeting April 15, 7:30 p. m.

## MAY

### BUSINESS MEETING

1. Plan for club picnic
2. Final plans for 4-H camps
3. Plan for 4-H summer project groups

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. Observe Rural Life Sunday
2. Complete WSLS Club Record

## JUNE

### ACTIVITIES:

1. 4-H Planning Meeting
2. 4-H Short Course at V. P. I. June 20-25

## JULY

### ACTIVITIES:

1. County-wide Picnic
2. Conservation Camp—July 20-25
3. Electric School
4. 4-H Projects for girls
5. Camp Holiday Lake—July 27-August 1
6. Camp Farrar—July 27-August 1

## AUGUST

### ACTIVITIES:

1. Get ready for 4-H Fair
2. Exhibit for 4-H Electric Congress August 26-28
3. Prepare for Atlantic Rural Exposition Sept. 26-Oct. 3

## SEPTEMBER

### ACTIVITIES:

1. Elect officers
2. Complete and turn in all Agricultural and Home project records
3. Exhibit in State Fair
4. Complete WSLs Club record
5. Prepare for Lynchburg Farm Show October 8-9

(12)

## ACHIEVEMENT RECORDS YOU MAY ENTER

(Age 14 and over)

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Achievement                    | 18. Forestry                  |
| 2. Alumni                         | 19. Frozen Food               |
| 3. Beautification of Home Grounds | 20. Garden                    |
| 4. Beef                           | 21. Health                    |
| 5. Boys Agriculture Program       | 22. Home Economics Program    |
| 6. Bread                          | 23. Home Improvement          |
| 7. Canning                        | 24. Laundry                   |
| 8. Citizenship                    | 25. Leadership                |
| 9. Clothing                       | 26. Meat Animal               |
| 10. Community Relations           | 27. Poultry                   |
| 11. Dairy                         | 28. Recreation and Rural Arts |
| 12. Dairy Foods                   | 29. Public Sneaking           |
| 13. Electric                      | 30. Room Improvement          |
| 14. Entomology                    | 31. Safety                    |
| 15. Farmers Cooperative           | 32. Soil & Water Conservation |
| 16. Field Crops                   | 33. Swine                     |
| 17. Food Preparation              | 34. Tractor                   |
|                                   | 35. Tomatoes                  |

(13)

## GIRLS 4-H DEMONSTRATIONS

### CONTEST

### WHAT TO DO AND WHERE

Public Speaking	Prepare 5-7 minute speech and present in County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Canning	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Bread Making	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Poultry Consumption	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Laundry	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Home Improvement	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Frozen Foods	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Food Preparation	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Dress Revue	Make an outfit and select accessories and model in County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Dairy Foods	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present at County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Beautification of Home Grounds	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present at County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Electric	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present at County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Share-the-Fun	Prepare and present act in February to club. If selected come to talent show in Lexington.

## APRIL

### BUSINESS MEETING

1. Demonstration  
Jr. Clubs—Introduce Fish and Habitats  
Sr. Clubs—Career Exploration
2. Fill In Records
3. Plans for attending 4-H Camps

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. Prepare for District Contest in April.
2. Tractor Operator's Contest
3. Complete plans for Rural Life Sunday
4. County Council Meeting April 15, 7:30 p. m.

## MAY

### BUSINESS MEETING

1. Plan for club picnic
2. Final plans for 4-H camps
3. Plan for 4-H summer project groups

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. Observe Rural Life Sunday
2. Complete WSLs Club Record

## FEBRUARY

### BUSINESS MEETING

1. Demonstration  
Jr. Clubs—Planting to attract Birds  
Sr. Clubs—Career Exploration

### THINGS TO DO:

1. Try out for Share-the-Fun Contest
2. Complete Achievement Records to turn in March 1.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. Plan for National 4-H Club Week

## MARCH

### BUSINESS MEETING

1. Demonstration  
Jr. Clubs—Introduction to Mammals, Cows, & Hawks  
Sr. Clubs—Career Exploration

### THINGS TO DO:

1. Enter poster contest
2. Collect owl pellets

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. Observe National 4-H Club Week, March 5-March 12
2. Attend Share-the-Fun Contest
3. County Tractor Maintenance School

## BOYS 4-H DEMONSTRATIONS

### CONTEST

### WHAT TO DO AND WHERE

Beautification of Home Grounds	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present at County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Public Speaking	Prepare 5-7 minute speech and present in County-Wide Contest in Lexington.
Electric	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present at County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Share-the-Fun	Prepare and present act in February to club. If selected come to talent show in Lexington.
Forestry	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present at County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Poultry Production	Prepare 12-15 minute demonstration and present in County-wide Contest in Lexington.
Livestock Conservation	Prepare 12-30 minute demonstration and present in county-wide Contest in Lexington.
Tractor Operators Contest	Attend 3 of 4 tractor maintenance classes at implement dealers. Come to county-wide Contest in Lexington.
Sheep Shearing	Enroll in sheep project. Attend County Sheep Shearing Contest at Sheep Shearing School.
Egg Grading	To be announced.
Livestock Judging	To be announced.

NOTE—Contact your agents or leaders for further information. To compete in district contest held after county contests club member must be 14 by January 1, 1960, in 4-H work 3 years including this year and in the same project 2 years including this year.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

### AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS V. P. I.

1. Esso 4-H Scholarship—\$200
2. Fribourg Foundation Scholarship—\$500
3. Kroger Scholarship—\$250
4. National Dairy Products Corporation—\$150
5. Ralston Purina Company Scholarship—\$500
6. Sears-Roebuck Scholarship—\$200
7. Shen-Valley Meat Packers, Inc. Scholarship—\$500
8. Smith Douglass 4-H Club Scholarship—\$400
9. Southern States Cooperative Scholarship—\$300
10. Virginia Cooperative Holstein Breeders Association—\$150
11. Virginia Guernsey Breeders Association—\$150
12. Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs—\$250
13. Virginia State Horticultural Society Women's Aux.—\$250
14. V. P. I. Agronomy Club—National Plant Food—\$200

### OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

15. Employment—positions are available for students
16. Cooperative program
17. Allied Chemical & Dye Cooperation—\$1500
18. American Oil Company Scholarship—\$1350
19. American Society for Metals Foundation—\$500
20. American Viscose Corporation—\$500
21. John Hopkins Baker of Tu kahoe Plantation Memorial—
22. Paul T. Bradley Memorial—\$400
23. Burlington Industries Foundation—\$500
24. Chemstrand Corporation—\$500

## DECEMBER

### BUSINESS MEETING

1. Have committees to report on Christmas plans
2. Demonstration  
Jr. Clubs—Bird Feeders  
Sr. Clubs—Career Exploration

### THINGS TO DO:

1. Plan demonstration for County Contest January 24

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. Have club Christmas parties
2. Attend Christmas Parade, Saturday, December 5

## JANUARY

### BUSINESS MEETING

1. Demonstration  
Jr. Clubs—Bird House and Nests  
Sr. Clubs—Career Exploration

### THINGS TO DO:

1. Get Achievement Contest Records ready for March 1 deadline.
2. Enter demonstration contests January 24 in Lexington

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. Plan to try out for Share-the-Fun Contest.

## OCTOBER

### BUSINESS MEETING

1. Enrollment of new members
2. Explanation of county-wide project  
Jr. Clubs—Wildlife  
Sr. Clubs—Career Exploration
3. Selection of individual projects
4. Demonstration—Conservation Pledge

### THINGS TO DO:

1. Club member fill in worksheet on individual project
2. Club member submit an idea for the Christmas float
3. Learn Conservation Pledge

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Lynchburg Farm Show—October 8 and 9  
County Council Meeting—October 16, 7:30 p. m.

## NOVEMBER

### BUSINESS MEETING

1. Complete plans for Christmas Float
2. Demonstration  
Jr. Clubs—Bird Identification  
Sr. Clubs—Career Exploration

### THINGS TO DO:

1. Attend Adult Leader Meeting at Natural Bridge  
November 21, 22 and 23

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. Plan Christmas (Club) Party
2. Plan a community Christmas project
3. Plan 4-H Christmas Float

25. Foundry Educational Foundation—\$200
26. General Motors—\$200 to \$2000
27. INCO Scholarship—\$300
28. International Telephone & Telegraph Corporation—\$500
29. Ewing W. Lawson Scholarship
30. Martin Aircraft—tuition and college fees
31. Monsanto Chemical—\$500
32. Pennsylvania Glass Sand Corporation—college fees
33. Pocahontas Fuel Company—\$524
34. Reynolds Metal Company Scholarship—\$1350
35. Science Talent Search—\$355
36. Smith-Douglas Chemical Engineering—\$300
37. Special Scholarships—\$300
38. David B. Steinman Loan—Tuition and college fees
39. Texaco Scholarship—tuition plus \$75 for books
40. Tile Council of America—\$250
41. Union Carbide Engineering—full tuition plus \$100
42. Universal Oil Products Company—\$500
43. Virginia Association of Small Loan Companies—\$300
44. V. P. I. Francis Eppes—Variable assistance
45. V. P. I. Scholarship for Orphans—\$100
46. V. P. I. War Memorial—\$300
47. Charles Baylor Walker Memorial—Variable assistance
48. Western Electric Company—\$800
49. Westinghouse Achievement in Electrical Engineering—\$500
50. Westinghouse Statistical—\$500

There are other loans and awards available.

#### 4-H PRESIDENTS

Brownsburg Jr. ....	Donna Fix
Brownsburg Sr. ....	Sue Whipple
Brownsburg Trabajo .....	Patsy Jarvis
Central 5th .....	Chyrl Carter
Central 6th .....	David Nicely
Central 7th .....	James Bowen
Central Sr. ....	Joanne Campbell
Effinger 5th .....	Joe Clemmer
Effinger 6th .....	Fay Clark
Effinger 7th .....	Linda German
Effinger Sr. ....	Mary Donald
Fairfield 5th .....	Mary Catherine McGranahan
Fairfield 6th .....	Sam Alexander
Fairfield 7th .....	Lewis Straub
Fairfield Sr. ....	Isabel McCorkle
Glasgow 5th .....	Jo Ann Thompson
Glasgow 6th .....	Frances Huffman
Glasgow 7th .....	Destry Jarvis
Goshen Jr. ....	Larry Anderson
Goshen Sr. ....	Carol Withrow
Highland Belle 5th .....	Jerry Clark
Highland Belle 6th .....	James Bennetch
Highland Belle 7th .....	Brenda Hostetter
Mt. View Jr. ....	Sherry Paxton
Mt. View Sr. ....	Dianne Nolen
Natural Bridge 4th .....	
Natural Bridge 5th .....	Calvin Austin
Natural Bridge 6th .....	Gary Claytor
Natural Bridge 7th .....	Martha Hambrick
Natural Bridge Sr. ....	Walter Perkins
Natural Bridge Sr. ....	Mrs. G. L. Finney, Natural Bridge Sta.

#### JOINT PROJECTS — Minimum Requirements

- \*1. Electric I
2. Electric II
- \*3. Garden I
4. Garden II — family
5. Garden IV — market
- \*6. Health I
7. Health II
- \*8. Home Grounds Beautification I
9. Home Grounds Beautification II
10. Milk and Milk Products I and II
- \*11. Brooding and Rearing—50 chicks
- \*12. Egg production—15 chickens
- \*13. Rabbit Production—1 or 2 does
14. Strawberry — 500 plants
15. Raspberries
- \*16. Wildlife
17. Leadership
- \*18. Safety
19. Career exploration

#### HOME MAKING PROJECTS

Looking Your Best	Clothing
So You'd Like to Sew	
Make or Remake	
Bread	Food
Food Preparation	
Meal Preparation	
Outdoor meals	
Your Room	Home Improvement
Your Furnishings	
Your Home	
Housekeeping	Home Management
Washing	
Ironing	
Money Management	

#### 4-H PROJECTS

4-H projects in which you might enroll. It is suggested that first year project members enroll and complete only one project their first year.

##### AGRICULTURE PROJECTS—Minimum Requirements

1. Baby Beef—steer
2. Market Beef—3 steers
3. Purebred Beef Heifer—heifer
4. Beef Herd—cow and calf
5. Beekeeping—colony
- \*6. Corn—hybrid, field
- \*7. Dairy Calf—under 1 year
8. Dairy Heifer—heifer over 1 year
9. Dairy production—cow and calf
- \*10. Entomology I—Insect collecting and study
11. Entomology II—advanced study
12. Market Lamb—3 lambs
13. Farm Flock—5 ewes
- \*14. Breeding Pig—1 purebred gilt
15. Sow and Litter—sow and pigs
16. Market Hogs—1 hog
- \*17. Forest Appreciation—tree study
- \*18. Tree Planting—200 trees
19. Forest Improvement—timber section
20. Timber Estimating—timber scaling
21. Hay Production
22. Pasture Improvement
23. Potato—1,000 square feet
24. Tomato—1,000 square feet
- \*25. Small Grain
26. Soil and Water Conservation
- \*27. Tractor Unit A—Own or have use of tractor
- \*28. Tractor Unit B—Own or have use of tractor
29. Tractor Unit C—Own or have use of tractor
30. Tractor Unit D—Own or have tractor
31. Know your soils I

(\*Suggested projects for first year members)

#### 4-H LEADERS

Brownsburg	.....	Mrs. Harry Cox, Raphine
Brownsburg Sr.	.....	Mrs. W. W. Heffelfinger, Brownsburg
Brownsburg Trabajo	.....	
Central 5th	.....	Mrs. S. H. Tardy, 247 Campbell Lane, Lex.
Central 6th	.....	Mrs. Ralph Lackey, Rt. 5, Lexington
Central 7th	.....	Mrs. Fred A. Steele 426 Morningside Hts., Lex.
Central Sr.	.....	Mrs. Dean Wright, Rt. 5, Lexington
Effinger 5th	.....	
Effinger 6th	.....	Mrs. Charles Potter, Rt. 2, Lexington
Effinger Sr.	.....	Mrs. John Barger, Rt. 5, Lexington
Effinger 7th	.....	Mrs. K. M. Hotinger, Rt. 2, Lexington
Fairfield 5th	.....	Mrs. Ralph Smith, Fairfield
Fairfield 6th	.....	Miss Mae Woodson, Lexington
Fairfield 7th	.....	Mrs. Herman Straub, Rt. 5, Lexington
Fairfield Sr.	.....	Mrs. J. T. Henry, Rt. 1, Buena Vista
Glasgow 5th	.....	
Glasgow 6th	.....	
Glasgow 7th	.....	
Goshen Jr.	.....	Mrs. Angie Greuver, Goshen
Goshen Sr.	.....	Mrs. Helen Guinn, Goshen
Highland Belle 5th	.....	Mrs. H. C. Wilhelm, Rt. 1, Lexington
Highland Belle 6th	.....	Mrs. H. C. Wilhelm, Rt. 1, Lexington
Highland Belle 7th	.....	Mrs. Mary Williamson, Rt. 1, Lexington
Mt. View Jr. and Sr.	.....	Mrs. S. A. Whiteside, Lexington
Mt. View Jr. and Sr.	.....	Mrs. Kermit Hughes, Rt. 5, Lexington
Natural Bridge 4th	.....	
Natural Bridge 5th	.....	
Natural Bridge 6th	.....	
Natural Bridge 7th	.....	Mrs. J. C. Ayers, Glasgow
Natural Bridge Sr.	.....	Mrs. L. D. Perkins, Natural Bridge
Natural Bridge Sr.	.....	Mrs. G. L. Finney, Natural Bridge Sta.

## 4-H HONOR CLUB

### Officers

President ..... Betsy MacCorkle  
 Vice President ..... Dixie Perkins  
 Secretary ..... Mary Elizabeth Wilson  
 Treasurer ..... Alfred Straub  
 Reporter ..... Walter Perkins  
 Recreation Leaders ..... Isabel MacCorkle, Reedy Kay Clark

### Requirements to Become Member of Honor Club

1. Be 14 years or older.
2. Have completed 3 years of good 4-H club work.
3. Be invited to become a member of Honor Club.

### Object of Honor Club

To recognize those who have done outstanding 4-H club work for three or more years and to encourage continued activity.  
 To provide special training and junior leadership.  
 To provide an organization that will enable members individually and collectively to be a greater service to the county 4-H club program.

### Members

Dixie Perkins	Diane Fix
Rebecca Perkins	Joyce Chaplin
Walter Perkins	Sally Kinnear
Rebecca Hattan	Isabelle MacCorkle
Tommy Faulkner	William Kogler
Fatsy Jarvis	Tommy Bare
James Davis	William Patterson
Alfred Straub	Joanne Campbell
Carolyn Morrison	Suzanne Williams
Margaret Bailey	Josie Pearson
Betty Moore	Jimmy Hotinger
Gene Hulbert	William Clements
Sandra Ayres	Mariorie Miller
Reedy Kay Clark	Martha Sterrett
Margaret Pearson	Connie Straub
Doug Sterrett	Mary Elizabeth Wilson
Betsy MacCorkle	Kathy Cummings
Carl Gilkeson	Wanda Berger
Shirley Hostetter	J. P. Jarvis

(20)

### January—Bird Nests Identified

Kind of Bird	Color of Egg	How Nests were Identified
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

### I Plan to Make These Plantings February—To Attract Birds

Kinds of Plants	Where to Plant	For What Birds
1.		
2.		

### March—List of Bird Enemies

1. ....	6. ....	11. ....
2. ....	7. ....	12. ....
3. ....	8. ....	13. ....
4. ....	9. ....	14. ....
5. ....	10. ....	15. ....

### March and April

What did you learn about mammals and fish?

( 5 )



## COUNTY COMMITTEE

### FLOAT

William Patterson  
Judy McKendree  
Josie Pearson  
Joyce Chaplin

### NOMINATING

Patsy Jarvis  
Joanne Campbell  
Walter Perkins  
Mary Donald  
Isabel McCorkle  
Carol Withrow

### PICNIC

Shirley Hostetter  
Barbara Whiteside  
Mary Porter Perkins  
Reedy Kay Clark

### 4-H SUNDAY

Betty Moore  
Walter Perkins  
Joan Woody  
Dixie Perkins

### NATIONAL 4-H CLUB WEEK

Isabel McCorkle  
Shirley Potter  
Ann Day  
Wanda Barger

## ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR 4-H CLUBS

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge
3. Reading of Minutes.
4. Reports.
5. Old or Unfinished Business
6. New Business.
7. Monthly 4-H Demonstration.
8. Songs and Recreation.
9. Prepare for next month.

### COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICERS

President ..... Mary Elizabeth Wilson  
Vice President ..... Danny Durrange  
Secretary ..... Josie Pearson  
Treasurer ..... William Patterson  
Reporter ..... Ann Day  
Recreation Leaders ..... Patsy Jarvis, Judy McKendree

### 4-H PLEDGE

"I pledge

my HEAD to clear thinking,  
my HEART to greater loyalty,  
my HANDS to larger service,  
my HEALTH to better living for my club,  
my community, and my country."

### 4-H COLORS

Green and White

### COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF

County Agricultural Agent ..... David A. Jackson  
Assistant County Agent ..... William H. Judy  
County Home Demonstration Agent ..... Elizabeth C. Donald  
Asst. Home Demonstration Agent ..... Jean A. Hambrick

### Phone

County Agent HO 3-4733      Home Agent HO 3-4734

( 2 )

### CLUB OFFICERS

President .....  
Vice President .....  
Secretary .....  
Treasurer .....  
Reporter .....  
Song Leaders .....  
Leader .....

### CLUB COMMITTEES

#### Program

#### Fair

V. P. ....  
.....  
.....  
.....

#### Rural Life Sunday

#### National 4-H Week

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(23)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1st Week	Fairfield 6th 9:30 Fairfield 5th 10:30 Fairfield 7th 2:00 Fairfield Sr. 3:00 p. m.	Highland Belle 7th 9:00 Highland Belle 6th 10:00 Highland Belle 5th 11:00	Natural Bridge 4th 10:00 Gosnop Jr. 1:10 Goahen Sr. 2:05	Natural Bridge 5th 9:45 Natural Bridge 6th 1:10	Glasgow 5th 9:20 Glasgow 6th 10:20 Glasgow 7th 11:10
2nd Week	Mt. View Jr. 12:50 Mt. View Sr. 1:40 Central Sr 3:10	Brownsburg Trabala 8:50 Brownsburg Jr. 9:55 Brownsburg Sr 10:50	Effinger Sr. 8:50 Effinger 5th 9:45 Effinger 6th 10:30 Effinger 7th 11:15	Natural Bridge Sr. 11:25 Natural Bridge 7th 1:10	Central 5th 9:00 Central 6th 10:00 Central 7th 11:00
3rd Week	Honor Club 7:30 p. m.				County Council 3rd Friday October & April
4th Week					

#### PLANNING YOUR 4-H CAREER

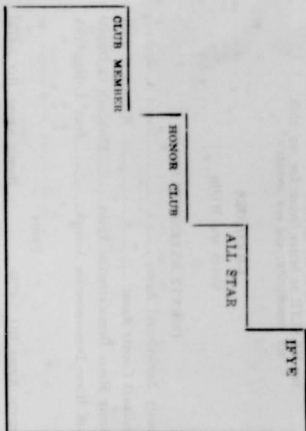
There are about 1000 4-H club members in Rockbridge County, all part of the 2,500,000 club members in the United States this year. You are part of this select group of young men and women 10-21 years of age. Below you see the stair steps to success in your career in 4-H. The basic requirements for doing a successful 4-H club membership are:

1. Enroll and attend all club meetings.
2. Take and complete a project.
3. Turn in completed project record books on all projects.

The basic requirements for the Honor Club and All Star organization are listed elsewhere in this book.

To be successful in any 4-H work you should have the cooperation of your parents. Read this yearbook over with them and discuss all work you plan to do—essential projects. Your adult leader is your guide. Check it your leader in advance of your club plans.

How far can you go up the steps?



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## SONGS

### 1. 4-H TRAIL

Over hill, over dale, we will find the greenwood trail  
 As we club folks come swinging along  
 Let it rain, let it shine, we will keep a steady line,  
 As we club folks come swinging along  
 With its Hl. Hl. He, the 4-H Trail for me  
 Shout out our letters loud and strong, 4-H!  
 Wher'er we go, you will always know,  
 That we club folks keep swinging along  
 As we club folks keep swinging along.

### 2. DREAMING (Girl's 4-H Song)

My home must have a high tree  
 Above its open gate.  
 My home must have a garden  
 Where little dreamings wait.  
 My home must have a wide view  
 Of field and meadow fair,  
 Of distant hill, of open sky,  
 With sunlight everywhere.

### 3. PLOUGHING SONG (Boy's 4-H Song)

A growing day, and a waking field,  
 And a furrow straight and long,  
 A golden sun and a lifting breeze,  
 And we follow with a song.  
 Sons of the soil are we,  
 Lads of the field and flock,  
 Turning our sods, asking no odds,  
 Where is a life so free?  
 Sons of the soil are we  
 Men of the coming years  
 Facing the dawn  
 Brain ruling brawn  
 Lords of our lands we'll be.

ROCKBRIDGE



4-H CLUB YEAR BOOK

1959 - 1960

Motto

"To Make The Best Better"

The 4-H Club Yearbook sponsored by the Rockbridge National Bank in Lexington is presented to each club member and leader in the county to inform as well as to help in planning. Each member is encouraged to write in his yearbook the record of projects taken, his club project record, and the record of his activities in club and county events. Yearbooks are also distributed to adult leaders and All Stars.

Publicity is another part of a successful program. Recognition was given to donors and supporters as well as recipients. Methods included: reporters for all local clubs, reporter for County Council, reporter for Honor Club and news releases to local papers and the State 4-H Newspaper of all noteworthy events which are to occur or have occurred. News releases for 4-H'ers, leaders and other personalities.

The Honor Club produced the National 4-H Club Week program. In addition the agents gave programs on 4-H work.

A press camera and slide camera were used for picturing the program. These are released to the newspapers and shown to 4-H and interested groups.

At various times 4-H'ers appear before civic groups to perform or tell their story. These include Share-the-Fun contestants appearing at the County Banker's Conference, Kiwanis Club, Feeder Calf and Yearling Sale Consignor's Dinner, District Ruritan Convention and local Ruritan Club meetings.

Parents are invited to as many events as possible. Parents are encouraged to read the 4-H Yearbook.

The 4-H Yearbook is a guide book and calendar for 4-H members, parents and leaders. In this book, sponsored by the Rockbridge National Bank, are 24 pages of condensed factual data. Clubs, officers, meetings, demonstrations, contests, scholarships, and committees are included to help the member plan his year. This book has done more than any other one thing to give the young novice the "big picture" of 4-H work.

Thus we follow the 4-H program from its planning and stated objectives to the conclusion of a successful year. Projects, Camps, Fairs, Exhibits, Contests, and Leadership all contribute their part to a well-rounded program.

Bank of Lexington.

Leaders were trained at County Council Meeting, special state-wide leader's training meeting and by letters and bulletins.

Efforts continue to search out and develop leaders. The H. D. clubs, All Star Organization, Honor Club, graduating 4-H members and parents are canvassed for potential material.

### G. Special Events

Rally Day is a county-wide event. A 4-H committee and leader plan the event which includes swimming, games, a picnic and a program for the county-wide project. The event is scheduled in mid-summer.

Rural Life Sunday observance is left strictly to the clubs once the county committee suggests ways of observing it. Methods include Sunset Services, helping in Church and Sunday School, decorating the Church, attending Church as a group, chapel programs in school and special Sunday School and Church programs.

Club projects are events in which the entire club takes part. Some outstanding projects include: reforestation, helping hospitals (decorations, bingo parties, favors, supplies), assisting schools (resupplying medicine chests, cleaning grounds, baby sitting at F.T.A., planting shrubbery), and many other smaller but no less important functions.

Awards are offered to excellence in achievement for the varied aspects of an all around program. As discussed above, there are awards to clubs for programs. County medals were given to boys for having the better projects and project records. Ribbons and money prizes go to Achievement Day, Share-the-Fun and other contest winners. Monetary awards have their place and are excellent for stirring up interest. But the prize which the 4-H'ers best remembers and shows to you is his ribbons.

operators contest were covered by contestants. William Koogler placed first but Richie Showalter represented the county in the District Contest winning 4th place.

The winners in the County WSLs-TV Club Contest this year were (1) Natural Bridge Senior Club, (2) Effinger Senior Club, and (3) Highland Belle 6th Club. The judging was based on activities of club 65%, project record completion 15%, attendance 10%, and re-enrollment 10%.

#### F. Leadership

Adult leadership is necessary to a successful 4-H program. No matter what the agent's efforts, no matter the encouragement of parents, no matter the interest of the 4-H member himself - the driving force or catalyst of any club is the active adult leader. Do not sell the first three factors short - they are needed. Here is an example. The Brownsburg Trabajo 4-H Club has the potential of being the best club in the county. It is in the best farming section and has excellent material. Yet the club has consistently failed to place up with winning clubs and one of the main reasons is the lack of a leader.

There has been a gradual increase in adult leadership from 10 to the present 39 leaders over seven years. The concept of the leaders role is to lead the club in its organizational and business activities, give project training, assist younger members in completing projects and records, and to assist in school clubs in meeting places and preparations and participation in club and county activities. Several leaders have volunteered their services in County, District, and State activities by serving as members of committees, judging and setting up exhibits.

All adult leaders were furnished with a copy of the National 4-H News Magazine. Their subscriptions are sponsored by the Peoples National

District award of \$50.00 bond in Field Crops. A total of 9 state and 3 district awards were made to Rockbridge 4-H boys and girls. William Koogler was announced as the National winner in Tractor Achievement at the National Congress which he attended with Margaret Gale Pearson (Laundry), Dorcas Campbell (Recreation) and Mrs. Elizabeth C. Donald, Home Demonstration Agent, and the other Virginia delegates. He will receive a \$400 college scholarship.

The County Demonstration Contests were sponsored by Adair Hutton Inc., First National Bank and Rockbridge County All Star Organization. There was a 25% increase in participation as 69 boys and girls gave 78 demonstrations or 30% more demonstrations than last year. Demonstrations were given in all fields and garden and safety. Top senior winners were further awarded a trip to the District Contests. Nine boys competed and three were selected for the State Contests at Blacksburg. All contestants in the County Contests and County Medal winners were given their awards at the annual Awards Party sponsored by Adair Hutton.

A total of 130 4-H'ers tried out for the County Share-the-Fun Contest. 45 were selected and appeared in 27 acts. The Rockbridge Farmers Coop sponsored the event awarding (1) to the 4 senior and 4 junior divisional winners subscriptions to the National 4-H News Magazine, (2) to the top senior act the trip to 4-H Short Course (a group - vocal act from Effinger Sr. Club - Patsy Glenn, Wanda Barger, Kathy Cummings and Faye Richards), (3) to the second place act Walter Perkins a trip to Senior Camp, Virginia Beach, and (4) to the first place boy (Keith Ruley and James Bennetch) and girl (Penny Chappel) trips to the County Camp Holiday Lake. All try-outs and contestants received a ribbon.

The Tractor Operators Contest had 16 contestants. All phases of the

Bank and the Wildlife Exhibit in Adair Huttons. In addition the Electric Program Committee placed an exhibit of a Study Center in Lexington Hardware.

Local 4-H clubs made exhibits and posters for schools and local businesses.

The electric exhibit was built by those from the electric project school and was a power plant and transmission lines used to show the County Electric Program.

The Christmas float was planned by the Float Committee of the County Council and entered in the Lexington and Buena Vista Christmas parades. The design is to allow as many 4-H'ers who will to work on it. The old woman in the shoe inspired a hugh shoe of chicken wire and napkins with the theme "We'll Have Bread for Christmas". A leader, Mrs. Dean Wright, and 4-H members made up the Old Woman and her family. Baker Brothers, local Case dealer, furnished tractor, wagon and space to build the float. Tommy Bare (Tractor Operator Contest winner) drove the float which placed third in the Lexington parade.

#### E. Contests

Contests were designed to bring out the best in the 4-H'ers store of knowledge and experience.

Fourteen boys Achievement Records were entered in State competition. These records are a summary of a member's projects and activities in leadership. William Koogler, Raphine, Brownsburg Trabajo Club, won a trip to National 4-H Club Congress in Tractor; Walter Perkins, Natural Bridge, Natural Bridge Sr. Club, a pen and pencil set in Forestry; Jimmy Hotinger, Rt. 2, Lexington, Effinger Sr. Club, Leadership Record for National competition; and Sammy Withrow, Rt. 5, Lexington, Brownsburg Trabajo Club,

The State 4-H Short Course is the climax to many 4-H'ers activities for the year. Eight boys attended to receive awards, compete in demonstration contests and received training in activities and leadership. Demonstrations included Alfred Straub, Poultry Production, Donnie Shorter, Livestock Conservation, and Sammy Withrow, Home Grounds Beautification.

#### C. Fairs

To learn how to know whether the product does "Make the Best Better" is the basic purpose of fairs. Beginning at the local 4-H Fair and progressing through the Atlantic Rural Exposition and the Lynchburg Farm Show boys and girls place their best on exhibit.

Poultry exhibits sent to the State Fair received first, second and third awards. The county 4-H Exhibit prepared by the Honor Club received 3rd and \$100.00.

At the local County 4-H Fair 25 boys entered 106 exhibits, an increase of 20% in exhibitors. The boys were from 14 different clubs. Approximately one-half of the exhibits received a blue ribbon and 50c. Sponsor for the Fair was the Lexington Kiwanis Club.

The best of these exhibits were entered in the Lynchburg Farm Show. The outstanding exhibitor was Reid Mackey, Fairfield Jr. 4-H Club, who won \$25.00 on his poultry, sheep, lamb, and egg exhibits.

#### D. Exhibits

More emphasis was placed on exhibits this year to teach team work, promote initiative and increase pride in accomplishment.

The National 4-H Club Week Committee planned for three exhibits in Lexington. These were planned and put up by 4-H'ers and leaders and included a clothing exhibit in Sears, the Career Project exhibit in Rockbridge National

7,700 pine seedlings were set out this year by 4-H clubs and 4-H'ers in their own projects. These were obtained through the Virginia Forest Service and planting was supervised by forestry officials.

Special efforts to securing an increased enrollment in purebred beef heifer and baby beef projects were initiated by the formation of the Rockbridge County Beef Committee, chaired by Fred Carter. Don Woodson, Bill Leesh and Hugh Lotts are members. The program was developed primarily this year to provide a good selection of heifers and steers for projects.

#### B. Camps

Realizing that a well-rounded educational program includes fun, an effort was made to increase attendance at camps. The County Camp Holiday Lake was open to the 10 - 14 age group who had successfully completed a year's work. The camp held with Pittsylvania County was well attended. Thirty-three boys from all over the county were in attendance. Training was given in swimming, handicraft, poultry, forestry, religious program leadership, song and folk game leadership and hunting and fishing. The camp allowed a junior lifeguard scholarship which went to Danny Durrange and other junior leadership scholarships to Eugene Hotinger (Folk Game Leadership) and Richie Showalter (Archery).

The District Senior 4-H Camp at Camp Farrar, Virginia Beach featured leadership training activities. Mr. Charles McKendree, Rt. 5, Lexington, accompanied the five boy delegation and Mrs. Adrian Whiteside and Miss Jean Hambrick, the assistant home demonstration agent, the girls.

The annual state 4-H Conservation Camp which is designed to promote leadership training and conservation of natural resources was attended by the Home Demonstration Agent and Eugene Potter, Raphine, Brownsburg Trabajo Club, Joanne Campbell of Central Sr. Club, and Josie Pearson of Natural Bridge Sr. Club.



Club members were trained to give demonstrations for their local club in sessions such as this one. Bob Giles of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries is training these vice presidents and junior leaders in Wildlife demonstrations.



The annual county 4-H Fair for the second year had facilities for exhibiting beef and sheep as well as the usual garden, electric, home economic type exhibits. This is a pen of 3 cows exhibited by Reid Mackey, Rt. 5, Lexington, son of Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Mackey.

the Plank Road, Collierstown, Kerrs Creek, Fairfield and Goshen communities, aroused much curiosity among neighbors. Many pullets also found a home direct from 4-H'ers to home flocks in this manner. The pullets were shown at the area Lynchburg Farm Show, at the Richmond State Fair and received most top placings. The auction netted \$1.61 per head for all pullets and was cried by R. O. Miller, local auctioneer, and father of a 4-H girl.

Baby Beef - Three 4-H'ers fed baby beefs for the Spring Roanoke Area Fat Stock Show. Becky Hynes, Raphine, Fairfield Sr. 4-H Club, placed 6th with an Angus from Pat Coleman Farm, Lexington. Bobby Williamson, Rt. 1, Lexington, Highland Belle 7th 4-H Club, placed 14th with an Angus steer bred by his father, Dr. R. D. Williamson. Diane Hodges, Rt. 3, Lexington, Effinger Sr. Club, placed 9th with a Hereford from Leech Hereford Farm. The show for this area held at the Hollins Market enabled the three 4-H'ers to sell their steers for an average \$35.25 per cwt including incentives paid by Rockbridge Farmers Coop, Harper and Agnor, Clover Creamery and Tiny Town Restaurant.

Other individual projects - A club member was encouraged to select and carry as many projects as he believed he could successfully complete. Projects open to selection were those most suited to the general county situation and maturity of the 4-H'ers. Emphasis was placed on beef, sheep, poultry, forestry and electricity. Project enrollment was Wildlife 75, Farm and Home Electric 37, Garden 22, Home Grounds 39, Poultry 29, Dairy 4, Reef Cattle 7, Sheep 2, Swine 4, Tractor 24, Forestry 6, Hay and Pasture 5, Soil & Water Conservation 2, Strawberries 2, Small Grain 1, Junior Leadership 9, and Career Exploration 30.

the State 4-H Electric Congress in Richmond. William Patterson attended also as district boy Achievement Record winner and received a fine engraved watch. The County Electric Exhibit received a white award.

The Home Grounds Beautification project was an innovation as a feeler to see how a project of this type would be received on a summer training session basis. It was run concurrently with electric with demonstrations on lawn care, seeding flowers, planting roses, flower arrangement, and a tour to two homes. 25 boys and girls came to four locations (Natural Bridge, Goshen, Brownsburg and Lexington) but the Goshen group was moved to Brownsburg. All who attended enjoyed the sessions and another group interest project of this type may be indicated in the future.

Junior leadership, an activity, was promoted and members were trained in the Rockbridge County 4-H Honor Club and Rockbridge County All Star organization. Especially in the Honor Club, efforts were directed to (1) provide opportunities to assist others with projects, (2) plan and carry out county events, (3) assist program chairmen with club demonstrations and (4) make individual leadership goals. Junior leadership as noted before was selected as a county-wide senior club project for next year.

Special individual projects - Three projects included Sears Poultry project and baby beef projects. These were supervised closely by agents and leaders and informal training given usually at the member's home.

Sears poultry project - Enrollment increased 43% as 20 boys and girls received 100 unsexed Rhode Island Red ROP chicks in March. To pay for these, the enrolled returned 10 pullats in September. These pullats were auctioned to the public for layers and many farmers benefitted from the improved type layers. The projects, scattered through out the county in



This scene at the annual electric school conducted in the summertime in cooperation with the local power supplier is typical of the training given in the several project training groups, conducted each year. The electric school was at the home and farm of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Wright and boys and girls gained the theoretical and practical experience in wiring the farm and home.

September - Reports by members attending State 4-H Electric Congress.

October - Enroll 4-H members in Unit I and II. Explain requirements of project and award county Electric medals.

November - Planning meeting by Electric Program Planning Committee to map out year's activities.

December - Special news articles and radio program on safe use of electricity in Christmas decorations.

January - Special newstory about a 4-H boy in electric project - Gene Hulbert, county electric demonstration contests.

February - A special newstory about a 4-H girl in electric project - Joanna Campbell.

March - Exhibit in Lexington Hardware Store on Better Lighted Study Center.

April - District 4-H Electric Demonstration Contests - Billy Flint and Isabel McCorkle competing.

May - Every 4-H club shown county medals, district and state awards available to club members. Publicity for demonstrational light bulb sale.

June - Begin County Electrical Exhibit. Have county demonstrational light bulb sale.

July - Have Electric II School on rewiring barn, garage, installation 100 amp entrance box, farm fence. Have Electric I school. Complete and turn in electric record books. Complete Achievement Records and select delegates to State Electric Congress.

August - Complete County 4-H Electric exhibit. Have Electric exhibit at County 4-H Fair. Attend State 4-H Electric Congress.

Sammy Withrow and Betty Sweet were selected as county delegates to

life vocation for him. In the first place, agents are not trained counselors and even if they were could not tell anyone what he would be most happy or successful doing. Rather the objectives were (1) to get boys and girls to make a realistic analysis of their abilities and interests (2) to assist in a logical examination of several occupations (3) to help them with a method of comparing occupations and (4) to awaken in them the necessity of planning in advance their education and training for an occupation.

2. Special interest group projects - These included tractor maintenance, farm and home electric, beautification of home grounds and leadership.

The tractor maintenance project was sponsored by Harper and Agnor (IH), Blueridge Implement Company (John Deere), Baker Brothers (Case), and Lackey-Patterson (AC) dealers on the county basis. Twenty-eight boys came to receive special project instruction on four nights and 25 completed the program. As an award the dealers sponsored a trip to the Eastern National Tractor Operators Contest for all boys who completed the project. Eleven of the boys who qualified were taken to Richmond by Guy Agnor (Harper and Agnor), Jim Fix (Baker Brothers) and Carl Carroll (Lackey-Patterson). Blueridge Implement Company contributed \$3.00 toward expenses of each car.

In the annual tractor operators contest sixteen boys competed with top honors going to William Koogler followed by Alfred Straub and Richie Showalter. Richie competed in the District Contest and placed 4th.

The electric project was planned by the electric program planning committee composed of Lucille Huntington and Ralph Breeding, VEPCo Representatives, William Patterson, Billy Flint and Joanne Campbell. Activities included:

president of each club was in charge of the demonstrations and either gave it or got some club members to give it. 80% of the demonstrations were given by club members. Records were filled out in April and the award of a year's subscription to "Virginia Wildlife" was awarded to the best record in each club. These awards made available through the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries went to: Wayne Reese, Pat Mast, Sparky Mohler, Sandra Hill, Larry Irvine, David Bane, Joyce Farrow, Larry Harris, Barbara Smith, Kimberly Brooks, Larry Fix, Larry Campbell, Marshall Rogers, Erlin McPaddin, Larry Anderson, Claudine Zollman, James Bennetch, Richard Carter, James Pharr, George Johnson, Lois Johnson, George Worley, Linda Mundy, and Robert Shifflett.

The Rockbridge All Star Organization judged the Wildlife records, selected the best boys' and girls' record in each club and presented each with a 4-H Brassard.

The Commission also provided seed for Wildlife seedpatches to be put out by club members in each club.

The Career Exploration Program was selected to offer older club members more challenges and rewards in a club project. During club meetings, members interviewed one person about his occupation, and completed and discussed the ability and preference analyses in the manual. Outside of the club meetings each was to interview one parent and as many other people as they could up to a total of six interviews. Then each completed the comparison charts on two occupations they were most interested in. During the year various data was collected for Aubrey Slayton who was doing his Masters Degree work on a Career Exploration study.

The objective of this project was not to select a club member's

Special meetings were scheduled to plan and carry out other 4-H activities. These included the annual Electric School, the Home Grounds Beautification School, Christmas Float, county exhibit to Electric Congress, county exhibit to the State Fair, Tractor Maintenance School and Tractor Operators Contest, County Demonstration Contest, Share-the-Fun Contest, county 4-H Fair, 4-H Awards Party, Rural Life Sunday, National 4-H Club Week, County Sheep Shearing School, 4-H Rally Day, 4-H Yearbook, Camp planning, Auto Care and Safety planning, 4-H Adult Leaders Meeting, and County Program Planning Meeting.

#### A. Projects

Projects for 4-H club members are conducted by four methods: (1) the club project - carried by all clubs in the county (2) the special interest group project - where small groups of members receive intensive training in one project (3) the special individual project with close supervision of agents and leaders and (4) other individual projects conducted and completed by the member with little supervision and personal instruction by agents or leaders.

1. The club projects - The County Program Planning Committee selected Wildlife as the junior clubs county-wide project and Leadership as the senior club's project. They also outlined a series of demonstrations to be given at club meetings. (The projects selected for next year are Junior clubs - Soil and Water Conservation and Senior clubs - Leadership and Health II.)

The demonstrations in Wildlife included: Bird Identification, Bird Houses and Equipment, Providing Food and Cover for Wildlife, Making Casts of Footprints and Identifying Mammals, and Bird Nest Collecting. The vice

### 5. Meetings

Special meetings were held throughout the calendar year for special projects, building exhibits and program planning. Club members were given information on all phases of their activities by letter, the 4-H Yearbook, bulletins, record books, demonstrations, talks and exhibits. Various organizations such as banks, machinery dealers and businesses assisted in conducting of projects and provided awards for parts of the program. Newspaper, radio and TV publicity was used to provide recognition and incentives for individuals and clubs.

Each club held nine regular meetings to conduct business, plan for special events, and see a demonstration. The five demonstrations for junior clubs and seven demonstrations for senior clubs were supervised by the vice president who called upon club members to conduct the program or assist him. Special project instruction, camp sign-up, and publicity of 4-H awards and events were part of club meetings also.

These officers attended the County Council Meetings. The fall meeting was to train officers, present awards, define objectives and to hear reports by various 4-H'ers on activities carried out the previous year. The spring meeting was primarily to elect officers and conduct any other business.

Outstanding boys and girls 14 years or older and in 4-H work 3 or more years were selected for the Honor Club. It met monthly to plan and carry out such activities as the county Christmas float, county exhibit at the State Fair, and special training on records.

The All Star organization meets quarterly to plan its activities. These include sponsoring the Public Speaking Contest, selecting All Star candidates, and attending the State All Star Conference.

and parents assisted the clubs in the usual organizational, project and sponsor capacities.

In September the 4-H clubs met and elected officers. These officers compose the County Council which meets twice yearly in October and April. Nine regular club meetings were scheduled to give demonstrations, disseminate project records and information, enroll members for camps, train 4-H'ers in demonstrations, and promote club projects.

## 2. Objectives

Our goals in club work were (1) to develop leadership in rural youth, (2) to develop in rural youth an appreciation for rural living and (3) to encourage the use of new and improved methods of agriculture. The accomplishment of these goals is attempted through projects, meetings, camps, fairs, exhibits, contests, leaders and other special activities.

## 3. Incentives

The major incentives of Honor Club membership, All Star membership and public recognition by awards and camps are constantly held before all boys and girls to urge them to do their utmost. The Honor Club membership is limited to those who do good club work and then only the top 10%. Without these incentives club work could continue, but we believe in maximum use of these rewards to promote the overall educational program and to recognize outstanding accomplishments of project work, leadership and personal development.

## 4. Financing

All clubs are self financed through projects as bake sales, square dances, sock hops, sale of vegetables and flower seeds, sale of pen and pencil sets, sale of light bulbs, and tree planting for individual farmers.

These leaders take an active part in informing their neighbors of better farming practices and assisting with projects with which the agents are working. The leaders are furnished information through the mail on the various projects. During the year this group has taken an active interest in promoting programs on:

1. Breeding, feeding, management and marketing of livestock and livestock products.
2. Helping to carry on activities of Rockbridge Artificial Breeding Association.
3. Improvement of permanent pastures and providing supplemental pastures.
4. Soil and water conservation.
5. Promotion of 4-H Club Work.
6. Year around food supply for home.
7. Community Improvement.
8. Promotion and operation of D.H.I.A. Association.
9. Special beef cattle and lamb sales.

#### V. 4-H CLUB WORK

##### 1. Organization

The 4-H organization in Rockbridge County is similar to the pattern used throughout the state. The local clubs are headed by the 4-H County Council. The purpose of the County Council is to set up goals for the overall county club program, assist clubs in conducting the 4-H program and act as a governing body for the local clubs in the county. The County Council also provides an opportunity for officer training for each of the officers of the local club.

At the beginning of the year there were 30 organized 4-H clubs with a membership of 453 boys and 495 girls. The 4-H Honor Club consisted of a membership of 8 boys and 21 girls. The officers of these clubs constituted the County Council. The County All Star organization which is quite active has a membership of 12 men and 12 women. Adult leaders, All Stars, teachers

- A County where is located the last home and the tomb of General "Stonewall" Jackson. His home is now a memorial shrine named in his honor.
- A County in which was born General Sam Houston, liberator of Texas, President of Texas Republic, Governor of Tennessee, Governor of Texas.
- A County in which was born Cyrus McCormick, inventor of the Reaper.
- A County in which was born General Sam Dale, scout, soldier, legislator of Alabama and of Mississippi.
- A County in which was born Dr. Ephraim McDowell, pioneer surgeon, "The Father of Abdominal Surgery".
- A County in which are located two nationally known institutions of learning, Washington and Lee University and Virginia Military Institute.
- A County of whose citizens have written and published no less than sixty-eight books - possibly more, about one author in every 325 of her population.
- A County which is the only one in the United States, having three representatives in the Hall of Fame in Washington, namely:  
 General Sam Houston representing Texas;  
 Dr. Ephraim McDowell representing Kentucky;  
 General Robert E. Lee representing Virginia.
- The birthplace of Bishop William Taylor, of the Methodist Church, who preached in more countries of the world than any other man who ever lived. Born in a log-cabin at the foot of Hogback Mountain, a three-and-a-half-million dollar hotel in San Francisco bears his name.
- The birthplace of Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander, Founder of the Divinity School of Princeton University.
- The birthplace of Mr. Sidney Williamson, engineer who built the Catun locks in the Panama Canal, a stupendous undertaking; also water-works in Pernambuco, Brazil, and in Florence, Italy.
- The birthplace of Mr. Charles Locher, engineer who built the Sault Sainte Marie ship canal; the Chicago drainage canal, the Boston water-works, many of the New York sub-ways, and other outstanding engineering projects.
- The county-seat, Lexington was laid out on paper, and a name chosen for it, by the State Legislature, in 1777, before even a site of the town had been selected.
- And, finally, the only county in the United States of America having the name, ROCKBRIDGE.

#### IV. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The County Board of Agriculture is the main organization used by the agents in promoting Extension work in various communities in the county. This group consists of a leader from each community, professional workers and representatives of other farm organizations in the county, along with leading farmers in each important branch of agriculture in the county.

In the beginning the region was of course agricultural. In the near two centuries many changes have taken place and while the county is still predominately a farming community industrialization has also assumed large proportions. Large industries such as James Lee's rug plant in Glasgow have changed the local area into a part-time farming or rural non-farm population. Beef followed closely by dairying, poultry, field crops, sheep and hogs, in that order, comprise the main sources of farmer income. Forest management with its resultant products is assuming an increasingly important role. Tree fruits, nursery products and truck crops make up the "big ten" sources of farm income.

The roads of the county are excellent - it is threaded in every direction by a network of hard surfaced secondary roads, besides being crossed in each direction by transcontinental thoroughfares, which intersect in the center of the county seat. "Farm to Market" poses no problem here.

Two important railway systems, the Norfolk and Western, and the Chesapeake and Ohio, furnish ample facilities for heavy freight; while the vans and trucks of highway shipments rumble over the roads by the hundreds every hour of the day and the night.

#### SOME HIGH-LIGHTS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

- A County having perhaps as much important history as any of the other counties.
- A County in which is the Natural Bridge, famous throughout the nation. From it Rockbridge County gets its name. Its first owner Mr. Thomas Jefferson.
- A County where is located an institution endowed by General George Washington, namely Washington and Lee University.
- A County where is located the last home, and the tomb, of General Robert E. Lee, whom Field Marshall Lord Wolseley called "The greatest soldier who ever lived".
- A County where is located the last home of Commodore Maury, "Pathfinder of the Seas", a designer of the first iron-clad ship of war, pioneer in meteorology and in establishing the Weather Bureau.

## III. TYPE OF AGRICULTURE AND COUNTY HISTORY

Rockbridge County is in the western part of Virginia, lies mainly in the Great Valley of Virginia, and has a total land area of 616 square miles. The county includes the west slope of the Blue Ridge, the entire width of the Great Valley, and extends westward beyond the western boundary of the Great Valley far enough to include two ridges and their intervening narrow lowland belts, together with the east slope of a third ridge, in the northwest part of the county, and one ridge and the east slope of a second in the southwestern part.

Because of the prevailing surface relief, drainage throughout the county is good, and on the steep slopes is excessive. There are only a few small poorly drained places on some of the bottoms and terraces.

Calpasture River and Brattons Creek unite in the northern part of the county to form Maury River, and this stream forms the drainage outlet for practically the entire county. It flows southward about midway through the county and joins James River near the county line in the extreme southern part. Little Calpasture River, South River, Buffalo Creek, Keers Creek, and Hays Creek are important tributaries of Maury River, and Irish Creek is a tributary of South River in the northeastern part of the county.

Rockbridge County was formed from Augusta and Botetourt Counties in 1778. The county was named for the famous Natural Bridge which is in the southern part. The first settlers were mainly Scotch-Irish, with some Scotch and English. The present population consists mainly of descendants of the early settlers.

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