



ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

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### III. County Organization

The Extension workers in the county consist of a county agent, home demonstration agent, and stenographer, with offices in the Post Office building, Emporia, Virginia.

The Extension organization in the county is the County Agricultural Extension Service Board. This board is made up of farmers, homemakers, business and professional people, and representatives of farm organizations. The agricultural part of this board is known as the County Agricultural Council, which is made up of three committees. These committees are, agronomy, livestock, and forestry. The Council has nineteen farmers as members.

The responsibility of the County Agricultural Extension Service Board is to set up the Extension program for the county. The Board assists the agents in carrying out the Extension program. The committees of the County Agricultural Council aids the agent by selecting the annual plan of work from the County Extension program.

The committees of the County Agricultural Council help the agent set up demonstrations, educational programs, meetings, and field trips. Through these methods the committees put into action the plan of work in the county.

### IV. Types of Agriculture

The agriculture of Greenville County consists of three main cash crops namely peanuts, cotton and tobacco; corn and soybeans are minor cash crops in the county. Pasture and hay crops are increasing annually due to some increase in livestock.

Yields of cash crops are increasing annually on most farms due to better crop management. In 1955, yields were better than the past two years, however, the summer drought caused yields to be down from previous yields. Flue-tobacco yields were increased to 1,272 pounds per acre. The cotton average yield was 0.6 of a bale this year. Peanut yields were below average this year. Due to the drought they were down to about 1,400 pounds per acre. Under normal conditions, yields of all crops would be higher than normal due to better crop management. Pasture yields are back to normal this fall, due to a normal rainfall. Pastures were very poor the first of the summer due to two previous dry years and a dry summer.

The principal livestock grown in the county includes hogs, and beef cattle. Numbers are not changing at the present time. While hogs are holding their own so far as numbers are concerned, beef cattle are under going a change on a few farms. Farmers are changing from cow herds to steer production due to small farms, and seasonal feed supplies, which is conducive to beef steer production.

Sheep production is small in the county. There are twelve farmers engaged in sheep production. There will be some increase in this class of livestock in the next few years.

There are three farmers engaged in the dairy business, and sell milk. A few farmers sell cream, most of which is sold locally.

#### V. Project Activities

##### A. Agronomy

###### Corn

Corn yields in the county were low again this year. The average yield was estimated at 30.0 bushels. This low yield is due to dry weather in June and July. Yields were spotted in the county. In some areas, corn yields were up to 80 bushels per acre, while in other areas, yields were almost nothing.

Most farmers used an adapted hybrid variety. Due to drought years, corn was not planted as thick this year as in the past. There are still problems confronting corn producers such as fertilization, rates of planting, and poor cultural practices.

The agent made an effort to get information to every farmer on proper cultural practices for higher yields of corn.

The following methods were used in taking information to the farmers: news columns; and radio, demonstrations, farm meetings, and personal contact.

Results in 1955 were not satisfactory due to a poor growing season. The goal to increase corn production by ten bushels per acre was not achieved, due to these adverse weather conditions. The use of the latest recommendations did cause farmers in most cases to produce a fair crop of corn.

The corn program will be continued again next year. Goals will be set so that yields can be increased, provided normal weather conditions exist.

###### Peanuts

The peanut is the major cash crop produced in the county. This year, peanut yields are probably down due to drought conditions. There were about 11,000 acres of peanuts produced in the county. In general, all peanut producers made a fair yield of peanuts this year. It is evident that present peanut yields are below what could be achieved in a normal year.

Objectives of the Extension peanut program this year were to get more farmers to improve their cultural practices during the peanut growing season.

The latest recommendations on peanut production were carried to farmers through farm meetings, news stories, radio programs, farm leaders, demonstrations, letters and circulars, and personal contact.

Results of the peanut program were good this year, as the dry weather did not have too much effect on the peanut crop. It is the opinion of the agent that production is near normal this year in all areas of the county. The goal of increasing yields was accomplished this year on most farms. This was done by getting information to farmers through personal

contact, demonstrations, radio and news stories, letters and peanut production circulars, and through farm leaders.

It is the opinion of the agronomy committee that we should continue the peanut program next year, as complete production goals have not been achieved.

#### Cotton

In the opinion of the agent and the agronomy committee, cotton production is still too low in Greenville County. Interest in cotton production has declined over the past twenty years. In 1930, there were 12,982 acres of cotton in the county, and this year, only 4,438 acres were planted. Some of the decline in acreages has resulted from allotments, however, most of the reduction has been voluntary on the part of producers. Other crops have been more profitable for farmers and they have dropped cotton production.

The agent made an effort to take latest production recommendations to all cotton producers through farm meetings, farm leaders, ginners, and buyers, radio and news stories, and demonstrations.

The goal of increasing the yield of cotton per acre was accomplished on some farms in the county, while on other farms dry weather cut yields, and wet weather in August and September caused cotton to rot before harvest time. In one area of the county, considerable cotton was lost due to rotting. The average yield was estimated at about 0.6 of a bale per acre. This yield is below the U. S. average, but in about half the county, yields were above the U. S. average.

There were three production demonstrations set up this year. Two of the demonstrations were satisfactory while the other demonstration was not satisfactory, due to a poor stand of cotton.

It is evident that production of cotton should be further improved and in the opinion of the agronomy committee, and the agent, should remain in the Extension program next year.

#### Tobacco

Flue-tobacco is the smallest of the three major cash crops produced in the county. This year, 1,130 acres of flue-tobacco were produced in the county. About 450 farmers produce tobacco. The major problem in tobacco production is poor production methods used by farmers. These include spread of diseases, insect control, sucker control and fertilization.

The agent attempted to get recommendations to all tobacco producers through news stories, radio, personal contact, demonstrations, and meetings.

Demonstrations were conducted on fumigation for nematode control and sucker control on flue-tobacco. Two demonstrations were conducted on each problem. Farmers attended both demonstrations and where this was a problem, they used the practice on their farm.

The objective in the tobacco program this year was to increase yields through better cultural practices on small farms during the year. The objectives were accomplished in part, in that some producers did a better job of production to include disease and insect control, planting recommended varieties, proper fertilization, sucker control, proper harvesting, and better grading methods.

It is the opinion of the agent and agronomy committee that work on improving tobacco production be carried in the Extension program next year.

#### Small Grain

Small grains are not grown extensively in Greenville County, except as cover crops and for winter grazing. Wheat is not grown except on a few farms with allotments. A slight increase was experienced in barley, and oats due to more livestock and poor corn crops during the past few years.

The objective for small grain production was to recommend barley and oats as a supplemental grain crop to help the shortage of corn for livestock feed. This objective was accomplished in many instances as more farmers planted small grain for feed this year.

The agent disseminated information to farmers on grain production through meetings, letters, news stories, radio, and personal contact.

It is felt that small grain production should be kept in the Extension plans for another year.

#### Soybeans

Again this year, soybeans were increased in acreage in the county. In 1950 we planted 513 acres and this year 1,344 acres. This increase was due to cuts in other row crops and a need for other cash income by farmers.

Problems in soybean production are recommended varieties, fertilization, and cultural practices.

The agent attempted to accomplish the objective of getting information to farmers on soybean production through meetings, letters, news stories, radio, and personal contact.

Results of the soybean crop are still indefinite, however, we should have an average yield per acre.

#### Pasture and Cover Crops

The pasture situation in the county has been very poor for the past three years, but the outlook appears bright at this time. New seeding and renovation of old pastures was accomplished this fall, and fall pastures have been normal this year for the first time in three years.

The objective this year was to renovate old pastures and seed new ones on soils not suited to row crop production. This objective was partially obtained this fall.

The agent took farmers information on a complete pasture program on their farm. The program included proper land use, recommended mixtures to use, fertilizer and lime recommendations, and seeding and maintenance of pasture.

The program was conducted through news articles, radio programs, farm meetings, farm leaders, personal contact, and demonstrations. Two top dressing demonstrations were conducted which were very satisfactory.

Spring pastures were satisfactory this year, however, summer pastures were unsatisfactory due to weather conditions. The fall grazing season was about normal for this area which is better than the past three years. The fall grazing continued good until about November 1. Winter pastures or cover crops seeded in the late summer and early fall appear to be better than the past few years. More farmers have seeded cover crops this fall than has been the case in the past.

#### B. Poultry

In Greenville County, poultry production is mostly for home consumption. In the county there are a limited number of commercial flocks of hens and a few commercial broiler producers.

Problems encountered in the poultry program are management, disease control, sanitation, and proper housing.

The agent had as an objective to take information to farmers to overcome these problems. The objective was accomplished through personal contact, meetings, news and radio programs.

There is still a need for an expanded poultry program in the county. There is a market for more fresh eggs and more broilers within the county.

#### C. Dairying

There are only three dairymen in the county, and the agent aided these men with management and building programs during the year. One of the three has just finished a Grade "A" milking barn. At this time, there are no other farmers interested in the dairy business other than for home milk supply.

The objective of the dairy program was to take information to dairymen, on latest management methods, and this objective was accomplished. Information was taken to the dairymen through meetings and personal contact.

#### D. Livestock

##### Swine

There were about 12,000 hogs produced for market in the county during the year. Most farmers produce some hogs for market each year. The hog situation in the county has not changed this year except that the price of hogs has dropped to a point where there is very little profit to be realized.

The objective this year was to improve management practices on farms of swine producers. The goal, of setting up nine swine demonstrations was not accomplished, though five of the demonstrations were started. These demonstrations will be long-time and cannot be accomplished in one year of activity.

The agent has taken timely information to swine producers through meetings, demonstrations, personal contact, news stories, and radio programs during the year.

There has been some improvement in swine management during the year, in that about 25 farmers have purchased better breeding stock and more attention has been directed to feeding and disease and insect control.

The five demonstrations will be added to next year and work will be continued on those all ready started. The livestock committee, in cooperation with the agent, desires to accomplish the goal of nine demonstrations during the coming year.

Beef Cattle

About 30 farmers in Greenville County are engaged in the beef business and have one of two types of business. Some have a beef herd, while others have steers or feeder cattle. This line of work was emphasized because there is a need for more farm income and this business fits our farm situation. In the county, we have peanut vine hay, cover crops, and some permanent pasture, which makes good feed for cattle. The livestock committee suggested that we should encourage more farmers to go into the feeder cattle business, and encourage some who are in the cow herd business to convert to the steer business.

This year, the agent attempted to encourage more farmers to try the feeder cattle business and encouraged a few farmers who were in the cow herd business to convert to feeder cattle.

The agent carried this program to the farmers of the county through meetings, personal contact, farm leaders, news stories, radio programs, and demonstrations.

During the year, we had a few farmers in the cow herd business to start converting to the steer business. A few additional farmers have started a few steers to take care of their surplus feeds. Some of the peanut hay was dusted with poison for corn root worm infestations late in the season, and cannot be used for feed, therefore, not as many farmers can feed cattle this year.

Next year it will be necessary to continue this program to complete desired results. Also, declining farm prices and cuts in crop allotments will make it necessary for Greenville County farmers to look for other sources of income.

### E. Horticulture Vegetables

Vegetables produced in the county are for home use in the majority of cases. A few farmers produce sweet potatoes, tomatoes, and cucumbers commercially.

The agent attempted to take information to farmers on production practices of the various vegetables this year through meetings, personal contact, and publicity.

The agent taught a few farmers proper sweet potato production and storage. Home gardeners were given information on insect and disease control and cultural practices and they benefited by using the recommendations.

### Landscaping

The agent aided a few individuals with landscaping their home grounds, accomplishing this through personal visits. The work was performed on the home grounds by making recommendations as to the development of the grounds.

### F. Agricultural Planning

The County Agricultural Council, which is made up of farmers, assists the agent in drawing up the Extension agricultural plan of work for the county. The Agricultural Council is made up of three committees which are: the agronomy committee, livestock committee, and forestry committee. The County Agricultural Council is made up of representatives of the three committees.

A-H Club planning is conducted by the A-H Club Council, which is made up of officers of all A-H Clubs and A-H adult leaders. The A-H Council draws up the A-H plan of work for the county.

### G. Forestry

The forest situation on most farms is poor. There have been very few farmers who have improved their forests in past years. While there are some farmers who have shown an interest in timberland improvement.

During the year, the forestry committee has worked with the agent and farmers to encourage them to participate in some forest program on their farm.

This program was taken to farmers through meetings, demonstrations, and through publicity. One demonstration was conducted on fence post treating, and two were conducted on killing undesirable hardwoods. Twelve demonstrations are now being set up to show complete timberland renovation. These demonstrations are being conducted with the cooperation of the county forestry committee, and the Virginia Forest Service.

The results of the forest program were encouraging. The agent, with cooperation of the forestry committee and professional foresters, has been able to create more interest in this program. The objective of getting more farmers interested and actually do some work on their woods has been reached. About 25 farmers have done some forest improvement work as a result of the Extension program.

VI. 4-H Club Work  
 A. 4-H Organization

The agent aided in supervising six 4-H clubs consisting of 46 boys and 3 girls enrolled in 4-H projects. All of the members live in the county.

4-H Club planning is performed by the 4-H Council, made up of 4-H Club officers and adult leaders.

It is felt by the agent and 4-H Council that the Extension program should offer training for youth in project work, recreation and leadership.

The agents attempted to improve the organization of the six 4-H clubs and to aid the Council in completing their goals for the year. The objectives were: to have representatives attend 4-H camp and the 4-H Short Course; to have social activities in each club; to have a county-wide 4-H picnic during the summer; and to have each member participate in at least one project during the year.

This 4-H program was taken to the 4-H Clubs through meetings, personal visits, demonstrations, news paper and radio.

B. Project Work

There were 68 projects conducted by 46 boys and 3 girls enrolled in six 4-H Clubs in the county. Thirty-three livestock projects were conducted by boys and girls, 6 boys carried garden projects, 4 boys carried crop projects, 18 boys carried electric projects, and 6 boys started poultry projects.

The 33 boys and girls carrying livestock projects had \$ 1,041.92 of these projects completed. Four boys and 2 girls carried baby beef projects, all of which completed their projects, showing a gross income of \$ 2,194.60, and a profit of \$ 662.92. Twenty-one boys carried swine projects, 11 of which were sows and litter, and 10 were fat pigs, they realized a profit of \$ 379.00.

Two boys lost their projects.

Four club members carried dairy projects, all of which completed their projects, showing a profit of \$ 130.00.

One boy carried a sheep project, and one boy carried a beef heifer project, both of which completed their projects.

Eighteen boys participated in electric projects. All of these boys did work on their projects. They attended the four electric demonstrations which were planned in cooperation with engineers from the two power companies in the area.

Six boys carried poultry projects this year. All of these projects were started in the spring. The boys are still working on the projects, and they have not been completed as yet.

Four boys carried crop projects; 2 carried tobacco, 1 peanuts, and 1 carried corn. Three of the boys completed their projects, showing a profit of \$ 757.43.

Six boys carried garden projects, showing a profit of \$ 71.00. All of these projects were home gardens.

Summarizing these projects, we find 33 members carrying livestock projects with a profit of \$ 1,041.92. Eighteen boys carried electric projects, 12 of which completed their projects. Six boys carried garden projects, showing a profit of \$ 71.00. Four boys carried crop projects, showing a profit of \$ 757.43, and 6 boys carried poultry projects, three of which completed, showing a profit of \$ 34.00.

### C. Achievements

All of the six 4-H Clubs had members from their club attend the 4-H camp. Two boys attend the 4-H Short Course, and one of these boys was taken into the 4-H All-Star organization.

Six club members carried baby beef projects. All of these calves were sold in the Petersburg Baby Beef Show and Sale. Out of 10 Prime animals in the sale, 4 came from the county. The members won \$ 49.00 in cash prizes.

The county 4-H Council had a 4-H picnic during August, with 90 club members, and parents present. One 4-H Club in the Claresville community maintains the community house, which is used by community groups. One 4-H Club in the Purdy community, is helping to develop a community house in that community.

Two 4-H Clubs put club exhibits in the county fair. One club won second prize and the other, third prize. These clubs were in competition with FFA and FHA booths.

The 4-H Achievement Program will be held in January this year, in cooperation with a County-wide social.

### VII. Farm and Home Development

Farm and Home Development was started in the county this year, because there is a need to tie together the total farm and home business. The farm side of this development is very important. In the county, the agricultural situation is principally that of crop farming, with hogs added to crops in some cases. In working with the entire farm business, this will teach farmers where their weak points are. By finding the individual problems, a farmer is able to develop his farm more wisely.

The agent had as an objective, the starting of five farmers on farm and home development. The farmers were presented alternatives which would cause them to analyze their businesses with the idea of improving what they all ready had, or the addition of enterprises to put this business in better balance.

This work was started with four farmers. The agent did this work with these individuals by personal contact on their farms. During personal visits, the agent gave the farmers information on how to improve the business they all ready had, and made suggestions as to some things they might consider in improving their business.

The results of this program have been reached in that four farmers have started the work. The farmers' results will not show in one year, but after a period of time, results should appear.

This program will be continued in the county because there is a need for agricultural development on the majority of farms in the county.

#### VIII. Cooperation With A.S.C.

The agent spent considerable time this year attending A.S.C. County meetings and aiding with A.S.C. educational activities. The agent conducted community meetings on their A.C.P. program. The agent helped with news articles and radio programs on A.S.C. programs. The agent gave information to farmers in the program upon personal contact.

#### IX. Cooperation With F.F.A.

The agent has aided the F.F.A. supervisor on factual information in the county. Also, a few farmers have been helped to get information on the F.F.A. program.

#### X. Cooperation With S.C.S.

Greenville County is located in the J. R. Horseley Soil Conservation District. The agent is a member of the Board of Supervisors of this district. He has cooperated with the local technician in his program. The agent has aided the S.C.S. by taking part in its educational program.

#### XI. Other Means of Reaching People

The agent prepared a weekly news column for the local weekly paper. Feature news stories are prepared for this local paper and other newspapers which are taken in the area. The local paper also carried a farm page using articles prepared by the V.P.I. editorial staff. The circulation of the local paper is about 7,000.

The agent and home agent put on a radio program daily over the local radio station. Other agricultural agencies aid in the program. The agent has arranged a recorded 15 minute daily program at 12:45 p.m., using tape recordings from V.P.I. in addition to the regular 12:30 daily program.

The agent has met with civic clubs in the county and given them facts on the county's agricultural program for 1955.

A number of interested farm organizations have aided the Extension program by bringing information to the attention of their members. These

organizations include the Peanut and Hog Growers' Association; the Peanut Cooperative; the Farm Bureau; and the Farmers' Union. The agent has aided these organizations with the presenting of information to their members on the farm programs.

## XII. Evaluation of Year's Work

The Extension program in Greenville County has been effective during the year 1955. Most farm people are using the latest experiment station recommendations on crop production. Crop farming accounts for about 4/5 of the farm income in the county. About 50% of the Greenville County farmers have diversified their system of agriculture. One of the problems facing the county farmer today is some method of increasing their farm income. Swine and beef cattle are being grown on land which has been taken out of crop production. In the near future, the prices of livestock will limit an increase of cattle and hogs.

Corn production in the county is much better than last year, however, the price of corn has reached a level where very little profit can be realized from this crop. Yields of corn in the county will average about 30 bushels per acre. This is an average crop of corn for the county. Last Year's yield was 21.0 bushels per acre.

Cotton yields this year averaged about .6 of a bale per acre, which is about the same yield as last year. This yield is low due to very dry weather in summer and a very wet fall. Yields in about half of the county were above normal, and in the other half, cotton was damaged so it could not be harvested due to wet weather at harvest time. Farmers made a definite improvement in recommended production and harvest methods, however, weather conditions caused the set back in yield in half of the county. Only one variety of cotton is grown in the county, this variety being Coker 100, wilt resistant.

Peanut production was definitely improved this year. The yield will average about 1,400 pounds per acre as compared to 851.7 pounds last year. The crop is average for this county, however, there is still room for improvement in the production of peanuts. This year, the yield was general over the county with most farmers making an average crop. More farmers used recommended production recommendations this year. The use of fertilizer on demonstrations showed an increase in yield this year. A number of peanut producers tested their soils this year, and used recommendations in producing their crop. Peanut prices this year are ranging from \$ 1.50 to \$ 3.00 above support price. The majority of farmers are using the latest recommendations for peanut production. There is still a number of producers who can increase yields by using complete production recommendations.

Pastures in the county have improved this fall due to better seasons. A number of farmers in the county reseeded old pastures and seeded new ones. Recommendations on pasture seeding and management are being followed by the majority of farmers who produce pasture in the county. Spring pastures were good this year, and those which were not damaged too badly during the summer were very good during the fall. The outlook for pastures for the coming year is very good at this time. There is still a need for more pasture to feed the livestock already produced in the county.

Swine production in the county was improved during the year, due to the

efforts of the livestock committee, and the agent. Better feeding and management were stressed this year, and also disease and insect control. Although swine prices dropped to 13 cents per pound for number one hogs, farmers were able to produce hogs for a small profit in most cases. To do this, farmers were encouraged to feed hogs on pasture and home grown grains. The agent started five production demonstrations during the year and about 30 demonstrations were conducted on disease and insect control. The agent, in cooperation with the local veterinarian has aided a number of farmers in determining diseases on their farms. The agent has aided about 30 farmers with the purchase of breeding stock.

Beef production was improved during the year. There has been some improvement in cow herds during the year due to the purchase of breeding stock. A few producers have culled out some of their poorer cows.

The agent, in cooperation with the livestock committee has encouraged a number of farmers to buy steers to take care of peanut vine hay, and winter pasture. In a number of instances, these feeds are lost due to lack of animals on the farms to eat these surplus feeds. Interest in beef steer production has increased during the year.

Dairy production in the county is still limited. Three farmers are in the Grade "A" milk business, and a few farmers produce cream. Dairy markets are stronger in the area this year, and it is possible that a few other farmers will become interested in the dairy business.

4-H Club work has improved in the county this year. The agent is teaching 4-H members through club meetings, personal visits and demonstrations. 4-H members have improved their project work through individual contact with the agent. There is still a need for more visitation by the agent. Two 4-H Clubs are now aiding with the operation of community houses in the county. 4-H leaders have taken an active part in club activities this year, such as socials, 4-H camp, 4-H Short Course, and a 4-H picnic for the county clubs. Five of the six 4-H Clubs are on a community basis and one is still in school.

Farm people are demanding more individual help. Requests are increasing for complete farm planning. It appears that a number of farmers are interested in agricultural planning as set up in the farm and home development program.

About half of the farmers in the county are looking for other enterprises to add to their business so the business will be profitable for them. This problem is being solved by addition of new enterprises and off the farm employment. Income levels on 50% of the farms in Greenville County are too low for the farmers to have a desirable standard of living.

It is the conclusion of the agent that accomplishments in agriculture in Greenville County are due to the interest of farm and urban people, and the Agricultural Extension Service program. The Extension program has been conducted so it would influence all of the people of the county, both farm and non-farm. Although the majority of the farm income comes from crop farming, there is still a definite trend toward diversification.