

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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Name

LOCAL FARM AGENT

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Agent

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1959

LUNEBURG

County

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III. THE EXTENSION AGENTS JOB

The Virginia Agricultural Extension Service is a public educational service for rural people irrespective of color, creed or economic status. It is a cooperative educational organization sponsored by the Federal, State and County Governments. The purpose of the organization is to carry to farm homes in Virginia information from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Land Grant Colleges, and Experiment Stations in a usable form that will aid in improving the standard of living of rural people within our commonwealth.

In 1914, the General Assembly of Virginia enacted laws providing for Extension in cooperation with the Federal Smith Lever Act. It is known as Appropriation Act 1914, Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, 1914, Chapter 353, page 710. Required funds were appropriated to off set the Federal Funds and County Board of Supervisors were authorized to appropriate for salaries and other cost of County Demonstration Agents. There have been a few amendments by the original act remains essentially the same.

Some of the responsibilities of the Extension Service are defined in Section 2 of the Smith Lever Act.

1. To assist farm people recognize and analyze their problems
2. To adapt and extend information and research results from State and Federal experimental work to all Virginia rural families
3. To anticipate and recognize state agricultural problems and to acquaint the college of agriculture with such problems needing research attention
4. To assist farm people to organize themselves into effective groups to meet their problems

"That Cooperative Extension Work consist of the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics to persons not attending said colleges in the several communities, and imparting to such persons information on said subjects through field demonstrations, publications, and otherwise; and this work shall be carried on in such a manner as may be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary of Agricultural and the State Agricultural College or College receiving the benefit of this act."

The act is clear and definite. By providing for the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations, the act sets forth the work of the County Farm and Home Demonstration Agents as strictly educational. It contemplates a broad and comprehensive work that covers all farm and home problems, including economic production, economic marketing, and the development of better home, community and social conditions.

IV. COUNTY SITUATION

Lunenburg County, which is also called Free State, is located in the Southern Piedmont District of the State. It has an area of 283,520 acres of which 177,029 acres or 64.4 per cent were in farms according to the 1954 census of agriculture. The area is divided into seven magisterial districts. There were 1846 farms averaging 95.9 acres in size and \$6,039 in value of land and buildings.

There are 823 farms operated by colored farmers. In 1950, 339 of these were full owners, 99 part owners, and there were 355 tenant farmers. The 1954 census shows an increase of 30 colored farm operators since 1950 (793 to 893). The full owner operated farms containing 23,480 acres, and average of 60.9 acres per farm. The total value of land and buildings on these farms shows a \$487,679 increase from 1950-1954.

Latest figures show a total population of 14,116 of which it is estimated that 48.8% or 6,896 are colored. There are 1,540 boys and girls between the ages of 10-20. There are 1,741 older youth between the ages of 18-25.

The topography of the county is rolling and slopes gradually toward the southeast. The maximum elevation is about 600 feet. The Meherrin River flows along the southern border and the Nottoway along the northern. Compared with State averages, temperatures are milder in the winter and slightly higher in the summer. The average for January is about 38 degrees and for July about 77. Total precipitation averages about 43 inches. The last killing frost in the spring occurs about April 15, and the first killing frost in the fall about October 20, thus giving a growing season of 188 days. The principle types of soil are Appling, Durham, Cecil, Madison, Louisburg and Georgeville.

Agriculture is the principal source of income, although during the past ten years manufacturing has been increasing, lumber and lumber products being the most important. Flue-cured tobacco supplies most of the farm income. Approximately 75% of the total income is derived from 10% of the total crop

land. Corn and wheat are important crops. In recent years dairying and beef cattle have been receiving greater attention.

The county is largely wooded and has over 200,000 acres of commercial forest, most of which are included in farms. Only 58,453 acres were classified as crop land in 1954, of which 16,405 acres were in pasture.

Kenbridge and Victoria are the only incorporated towns with a total population of slightly less than 3,000 in 1950. Kenbridge is the fourth largest flue-cured tobacco market in the State.

V. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The County Advisory Board, composed of representatives from the various communities has a total membership of 75 men and women. The board assists with overall planning and execution of this Extension program in the county. Seventy-four other committeemen and voluntary local leaders aid the Board. The Board held 4 meetings during the year to plan and evaluate program activities. Special activities are recorded in section on Miscellaneous Activities.

Projects planned or approved by the board for the 1959 plan of work are brought out in the following narrative.

Committees that functioned this year were:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| A. Soil and Water Conservation & Agronomy | |
| B. Forestry | E. 4-H Junior Council |
| C. Community Improvement | F. 4-H Leader Council |
| D. Grading Blade | G. Labor Pool |

VI. MAJOR PROJECT ACTIVITY

1. Soil And Water Conservation

A. WHY

The topography of the county is rolling and slopes gradually toward the southeast. Land is, therefore, on gentle slopes. Good soil and water conservation practices are needed to get maximum results. The Soil and Water Conservation - Agronomy Committee decided to keep this project as a major goal, since its a pre-requisite to efficient production and all other phases that affect our standard of living. Many farmers do not apply best conservation measures which is evidenced by

improper rotations, cultivated fields not seeded to protective cover, low lime and fertility level, lack of terraces, strip crops, sod waterways and other technical practices which retard erosion. The basic need and long time objective is to create a favorable attitude for and teach the knowledge and skills required to get a complete soil and water conservation plan on every farm.

B. WHAT

The objective set up in 1959 was to create more interest in soil and water conservation.

C. HOW

The methods used were designed to create interest by encouraging the application of specific practices. Among these were:

1. Stressed soil sampling to determine lime and fertilizer needs.
2. Encouraged agronomy committeemen to apply technical and general practices on their farms.
3. Emphasized seeding of fall and winter cover crops.
 - a. Clover for corn fallow
 - b. Small grain after corn
 - c. Rye - Rye grass, oats or fescue on tobacco.
4. Held county-wide meeting to discuss ASC assistance available.
5. Conducted a survey to help determine progress.

These methods were supported by the general media of radio, circular and personal letters, farm and office visits. The Agronomy and Forestry Committees got their plans of work underway with a county-wide farm meeting on Monday, December 22, 1958. The County ASC Committee Office Manager was called in to discuss the 1959 ASP program with special emphasis on the major goals set up for 1959 i.e Soil and Water Conservation (terraces, strip crop and cover crops). Forage Crops (permanent, summer and winter pastures - hay crops), Forestry, (pine tree seeding).

To set the stage for group participation each committeeman agreed to:

1. Bring at least one other farmer to the meeting on time.
2. Ask at least one question during the Question and Answer period.
3. Select one or more practices to be carried out on his farm in 1959.

D. RESULTS

The results as reported here is an attempt to measure what was accomplished by the methods used to create more interest

in soil and water conservation. No credit is given for forest, forage and general row crop cultural practices which contribute to the overall objective.

Twenty-nine farmers attended the county-wide meeting in December. Six of these left the meeting and went directly to the ASC office to apply for 1959 conservation practices. Thirteen others present had already made application for practices prior to this meeting.

Two agronomy committeemen, J. C. Irby and Charles Fowlkes, reported terraces built, J. C. Irby established strip crop, McCoy Ghee seeded a permanent pasture which established a soil and water conservation plan complete, except for forest improvement practices.

One hundred and one soil samples were received by the agent, an increase of 25 over the previous year. The analysis of these samples show that nearly half of crop land need lime, 20% need potash, and 10% need phosphorus, for best results. Seventeen of twenty-five survey returns indicated they had seeded fall and winter cover crops. The local soil technician reports that three farmers built 2,825 feet of terraces while two strip cropped nine acres. He feels that sed waterways with terracing, or strip cropping needs continued emphasis.

B. THE EVALUATION

The progress in this major project seems moderately successful. It is quite evident that there is a greater interest in soil and water conservation. However, continued emphasis is needed since this phase is basic in determining progress or lack of it in many, if not all phases of rural and urban living. The agent feels that more methods of teaching should be expanded to include visual aids, result demonstrations, and field meetings or tours to such demonstrations. One other fact which might strengthen the program projection is to set up a separate Soil and Water Conservation Committee instead of the present one which is combined with Agronomy.

2. Forage Crops

A. WHY

The 1954 census shows a total income of less than one half million dollars derived from livestock and livestock products. Many farmers don't produce sufficient feed for livestock kept for home use. Others fail to produce enough livestock to furnish family meat supplies. One of the first and primary considerations in growing livestock is good quality - low cost feed. The long time objective is to increase income from livestock and livestock products to a level nearly equal to the total crop income (\$3,190,045 - 1950 census).

B. WHAT

The 1959 objective was to encourage farmers to adopt cultural practices that would increase forage crop fields and extend harvest period.

C. HOW

1. Held county-wide meeting to discuss ACP aid and practices available.
2. Established one permanent, two summer and two winter pasture demonstrations with with agronomy committeemen.
3. Conducted general educational program on top dressing, seeding dates, mixtures, soil sampling, etc.
4. Held field meeting at winter pasture demonstration.
5. Used slides of result demonstrations at county-wide and community meetings.
6. Supported above practices with news articles, radio broadcasts, farm and office visits.
7. Conducted a survey to help determine progress.

D. RESULTS

Twenty-five returns showed that seven farmers seeded permanent pastures, four seeded summer pastures and seven seeded winter pastures. Three farmers seeded a Red Clover-Orchard Grass mixture for hay. Eighteen indicated they had top dressed hay and pasture crops.

These results show some progress toward goals established. This is especially true with the number seeding summer and winter pastures in 1959 (11) compared with 1958 (5).

Twenty one farmers attended the winter pasture demonstration field meeting held on the farm of Charles Fowlkes, Route 1, Keysville, Virginia. The effectiveness of this teaching tool can be more accurately measured at winter pasture seeding time next season.

E. THE EVALUATION

Progress is good. Need is still great. Will probably require major emphasis in 1960. More tours and field meetings at good demonstrations will probably be best tools to add to other teaching methods.

3. Forestry

A. WHY

Latest available figures show that there are over 200,000 acres of commercial forest in the county, most of which are

included in farms. The 1954 census showed that approximately one thenth of these acres were on farms operated by colored. A local survey conducted in 1958 showed that less than 10% of woodland on the colored operated farms was in good commerial forest products. Outlook information indicates a strong demand for forest products to meet the needs of our expanding population. Many farmers can increase their income and total farm value through good forest management. Some of the problems to be overcome are:

1. Lack of interest in good forest management.
2. Lack of knowledge in forest value.
3. Lack of skill in applying practices.
4. Lack of knowledge of service agencies and ACP aid available.

B. WHAT

The goal was to create more interest in better forest management among farmers in the county.

C. HOW

1. Held county-wide meeting to explain practices and financial assistance available through ASC office.
2. Conducted special campaign to get pine trees seeded.
3. Conducted pine tree setting demonstration.
4. Secured three pine tree planting bars for use in the county.
5. Submitted names of 6 committeemen to State Forester to work out management plans.
6. Held three forestry committee meetings.
7. Prepared blue ribbon forestry exhibit and displayed at South Central Fair.
8. Enrolled forty-nine 4-Hers in Forestry projects.
9. Conducted county-wide survey to determine number of people who would be interested in planting pine trees.
10. Conducted survey to determine progress made toward objective.
11. Used visuals in county-wide and community meetings.
12. Received and used to great advantage assistance of State Extension Forest Service, Virginia Forest Service and County Chief Forest Warden Personnel.
13. Trained Forestry Committeemen and 4-Hers to conduct method demonstrations to teach skills of planting and poisoning hardwoods.
14. Conducted "Convert Undesirable Hardwood to Pine" demonstration.

D. RESULTS

Twenty-nine farmers attended the county-wide meeting to hear about practices and assistance available through ASC office. Fourteen 4-Hers and seven adults planted a total of 22,700 pine seedlings. Two 4-Hers exhibited and won prizes on Forestry exhibits

at the South Central Fair. Twenty 4-Hers did satisfactory work in Forest Appreciation projects. Twenty people attended a demonstration field meeting to learn skills for planting. Two forest committeemen have applied practices which initiated their forest management plans. Nine of twenty survey returns report they have a lot more interest in forestry. Following is a report from the District Forester showing work he helped supervise: Dewey Fowlkes*, J. S. Gee, McCoy Ghee, Ernest Irby*, W. D. Jones, Samuel Maddox, Goodrich Stokes*. (Names with asterick are forestry committeemen)

E. THE EVALUATION

Most effective work in major project activity. Future emphasis might include other phases of good forest management i.e. skills in marketing, thinning to increase production, 4-H projects in other units. Forestry committeemen did good job in program planning and execution.

VII. MINOR PROJECT ACTIVITY

1. Corn

Results - Four 4-Hers and eight adults enrolled in the 100 bushel corn club. Three local Fertilizer dealers (Inge Feed and Seed, Leader Warehouse and Farmers Cooperative Fertilizer Purchasers, inc.) gave 1½ tons of fertilizer to use in sponsoring the contest. The Farmers Cooperative Fertilizer Purchasers Inc. provided a cup award to give Ollie Maddox, Route 1, Blackstone, Virginia for top the 100 bushel yield in 1958 (107 bu.). Inge Feed & Seed Co. contributed one bushel of seed corn as a sponsoring award. Dry weather cut yields. No measurements taken. Nearly half of 25 survey returns indicate the use of 600 lbs. of a complete fertilizer and 200 lbs. of nitrogen fertilizer per acre. The fact that the county average corn crop yield has increased 7 bu. (43 - 50) in the last five years indicates farmers are following more eddicient production practices.

2. Tobacco Flue

Results - Soil sampling to help determine lime and fertilizer needs is still on the increase. Eighty one samples were submitted in 1959 compared with 41 in 1958. Most farmers depend on recommendations from the Extension Service for varistal selection, and other cultural practices. Three grading and sorting demonstrations were held during the year which were attended by 52 farmers. Dr. Jonas Jeffries, USDA Marketing Service, Tobacco Division, Greensboro, N. C. did an effective job of teaching farm sorting skills and marketing techniques. More than twice the number in attendance were observed using techniques he recommended at local warehouse sales. Numerous requests have come for a repeat of this

type meeting next year. Cooperators for these demonstrations were, Lander Baine, Charles Fowlkes and Samuel Maddox. Four fluorescent lights were installed as a direct result of these meetings. (Samuel Maddox, George Womack, Herbert Baskerville, and James T. Reese)

Aromatic Tobacco

The experience of six growers with experimental plots of aromatic tobacco has aroused interest. Rev. Daniel Booker, Alfred Stokes, Jerry Freeman, William Brown, Floyd Fowlkes and Rev. Joe Taylor were cooperators. These farmers sold 389 pounds for a total of \$130.91. They figure its possible to average \$800.00 an acre with proper handling. The potential as a supplement to income might move this project into a major project activity area. Unlimited acreage, small allotted flue cured acres, and available labor are factors which might contribute to this supposition.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROJECT ACTIVITY

1. Community Improvement

The Community Improvement area in the county is the Columbian Grove Magisterial District. Sixty-two families are listed. Among the major accomplishments in 1959 are: Five families installed a partial water system. (Robert Dodson, McCoy Ghee, Willie Wilson, Carl Ghee, James Hatchett). Willie Wilson is winner of a \$50.00 cash award by being the first to install his system during the extension work year. Families sponsor the contest each year with cash contributions.

Two families erected cement mail box posts, a community project designed to put up a standard type mail box through out the area.

One family made major improvements to their house by adding two bedrooms, installing a picture window, a complete bath and central heat. The family built a store, also. Two families installed telephones. One family completed a home grounds landscape plan. One of the three H. D. clubs in the area prepared and displayed a Blue Ribbon booth exhibit at the South Central Fair. The 4-H club in the district won best club of the year award.

The Labor Pool completed its first project during the year. The Pool is made up of members who give labor to each other to help with farm and home building improvement projects. Seven members assisted Aubrey Bell put roofing on his home at an estimated labor saving of \$18.90. They completed the job in 3

hours. Several other general improvements on the farm, in and outside the home, and in 4-H club work were made.

2. Farm And Home Development

Most of the work in farm and home development was done with three families, McCoy Ghee, William Bragg, and T. H. Irby & Sons. These represent the medium, low and high income families of the county. One meeting was held with the assistance of Extension Economist, Kenneth P. Loope to help four farmers with farm management skills. He also assisted two families with resource inventory. The Ghee family has moved closer to accomplishing goals they set up by installing running water and completing front and side porches. The agent expects to increase time spent in this area to help more families with farm management skills.

3. Advisory Board

- A. Wills and Deeds and Social Security meetings were held during the year to give farmers information of interest and benefit in these projects.
- B. South Central Fair - The board assisted with plans for participating in the South Central Fair at Chase City for the first time. Cooperators included all individuals and groups under the supervision of the Extension Agents. The prizes and awards exceeded those of the other participating counties. Cash awards amounted to \$190.00.

IX. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Public service agencies assisted and services received during the year included, SCS, ASC, Public Schools, FHA, REA, Health Department, Social Security Administration, FCA, and Forest Service.

X. 4-H CLUB WORK

A. WHY

Latest census figures show that there are 1,540 boys and girls in the county between the ages of 10-20. About 15% of these were being reached directly through the 4-H program. Some of the circumstances which have presented problems to more and better quality work were:

- 1. Lack of understanding between Extension and Vo-Ag personnel on eligibility of older club members in high school.

2. Lack of general interest and support of program by other professional workers.
3. Lack of parent and 4-H member interest.
4. Choice of projects offered not appealing to older club members.

B. WHAT

Our overall goal is to promote a strong 4-H program for eligible youth which will provide them the opportunity to develop into more desirable citizens. The 1959 emphasis was on:

1. Improving quantity and quality of project work and record books.
2. Increase total membership enrollment.

C. HOW

The 4-H program was set up by the standard state pattern, having a Junior Council heading the local clubs and a supervising council of adult leaders. Every opportunity is used to involve members in program planning and participation. This was attempted through normal communication channels with emphasis on projects, records and special events. Permanent type record books were ordered and made available. Members who purchased and kept such records were given free pictures. Projects offered for the most part were those which concluded with a fair, show and sale, or activity which provided an award, cash return or recognition for best achievement.

D. RESULTS

Total 4-H enrollment showed an increase of 61 over 1958. (71 - 106 boys and 106 - 133 girls). Members enrolled under the supervision of the farm agent in 8 clubs were as follows: Corn (18), Tobacco (1), Forestry (49), Garden (24) Potatoes (2), Market Hog (27) and Poultry (3). Forty eight of the 106 different members enrolled successfully completed a total of 64 projects.

Among the records returned this year were 20 permanent type, a new high. There were fewer total records returned, but quality of those returned was better. The agent feels that continued emphasis is needed in both project work and record keeping.

Special Activities conducted during the year were as follows:

A. National 4-H Club Week - March

Approximately 250 4-H members witnessed the Annual National 4-H Club program in March. Miss Doris Smith, 1958 IFYE delegate,

related her experiences for six months in Brazil. The 4-H Leader Council presented Miss Mary S. Fowlkes, former 4-Her, a \$100.00 scholarship. County medal winners in the 1958 program were also presented. Participants on the program were: Ernest Barnes, Roslyn Wood, Petty King, Annette Hicks, John Smith, and Jacquelin Sanford.

B. Rural Life Sunday - May

This annual worship program was observed at the Pleasant Oak Baptist Church. Guest speaker was John Taylor, a former 4-H member from the county. Four of the eight organized clubs were represented. Program participants were: Ernest Barnes, Ann Watkins, Carolyn Maddox, Shirley Vaughan, S. L. Harris Jr., Carolyn Harding, J. C. Irby Jr, Jacquelin Sanford, Jessie Maddox, Henry, Theodore and Maggie Jennings, and Lillian Harding.

C. State Conferences - June & August

A leader, fifteen boys and girls attended state conferences during the year. Going to the short course in June were: Miss C. A. Billups, local leader, Ann Watkins, Carolyn Maddox, Burnerdine Hurt, Mary S. Fowlkes, Thelma Benjamin, Hazel Jennings, John Smith, Goodrich Stokes, John Boyd, Henry Yancey and Petty King.

Delegates to the Wildlife Conference were: Skuyler Freeman, Bertha Postell, and Charlotte Lambert.

Special Activities - August

Approximately eighty five 4-H members attended the annual 4-H picnic at Prince Edward State Park in August.

Petty King, J. C. Irby Jr, Denton Andrews, and Howard Hairston exhibited five animals in the Lynchburg Junior Market Hog Show and Sale. Their placings and cash awards in the order listed were: (8th - \$3.00), (two second ribbons - \$1.00), (none), and (3rd ribbon - \$1.00).

October: S. L. Harris Jr., Eva Seward, Koretha Irby, J. C. Irby, Jr., Annette Hicks, Jessie Maddox, and Irma Carter exhibits hogs at the Petersburg Fair - Junior Market Hog Show and Sale. J. C. Irby Jr. and Annette Hicks won 4th place ribbons and \$4.00 each while S. L. Harris Jr. placed 3rd and received a \$3.00 cash award.

Fair

Seven boys and girls under the supervision of the farm agent exhibited items in the South Central Fair at Chase City. Each

of these won awards totaling \$20.00. The participants were Koretha Irby, Jessie Maddox, Calvin Hazelwood, Jerry Freeman, Skuyler Freeman, Henry Yancey and John Smith. This was the first year that 4-Hers had worked in this local fair.

Achievement Day

The 11th Annual 4-H Achievement and 2nd Annual Extension Achievement Day program was observed at the Lunenburg Elementary Auditorium on Saturday, November 21. Representatives from each of the 8 organized 4-H clubs, along with Farm, H. D. and Community Improvement Club members were present. The theme adopted for this year's observance was: "Improving Family and Community Living with Awards". Following progress reports and achievements in major areas, awards were grouped and presented as follows:

1. Seven leaders received Service Pins and Certificates. (Three 5 yr. and four 10 yr.)
2. 4-H County medal winners were: Achievement - Skuyler Freeman and Beatrice Thomas; Field Crop - Calvin Hazelwood; Forestry - Jerry Freeman; Garden - Beatrice Thomas; Leadership - Jessie Maddox and Swine - Howard Hairston. Four members records were submitted in State Contest - Jerry Freeman, Skuyler Freeman, Beatrice Thomas and Carolyn Maddox.
3. Fair Ribbons and Cash Prizes to H. D., Farm and 4-H individual and booth awards were presented. Cash prizes totaled \$190.00. Also in this group were pig show and sale prize winners, best club of the year award, King and Queen contest winners and door prizes for lucky numbered program holders. Scott Maddox, Jr. was presented a \$50.00 cash award for winning the Columbain Grove Community Club Water Installation Contest. Best club of the year honors went to New Grove. King and Queen honors the Teenage 4-H Club were crowned as winners in this financial rally. Receipts of \$93.00 will go toward the scholarship fund.

EVALUATION

Moderate progress was made toward objectives set up during the year. In most areas quantity decreased by quality increased. Two of the most effective teaching tools used were visual aids and the South Central Fair. Areas which seem to need more emphasis are program changes adapted to recent trends, needs and interests and adequately trained leaders to help plan and execute an adequate program. Facilities which are most needed are: adding machine, projecting machine, and office desk lamps. The agent feels that the ensuing extension program should devote considerable time in identifying changes and trends which affect

the county situation and acquainting its contacts with such information. Some steps might be taken to initiate a change in program emphasis which might help meet the evident needs. High on this list are Farm and Home Management, Family Living, Youth Development and A Young Adult program.

An evaluation of the county program in terms of major emphasis pointed out in the recent Scope Report follows:

	Good	Fair	Poor
I. Efficiency in Agricultural Production-----	x		
II. Efficiency in Marketing, Distribution and Utilization -----		x	
III. Conservation, Development, and Use of Natural Resources -----		x	
IV. Management on the Farm and in the Home-----			x
V. Family Living-----			x
VI. Youth Development-----		x	
VII. Leadership Development-----		x	
VIII. Community Improvement and Resource Development-----			x
IX. Public Affairs-----		x	

In conducting the overall extension program the agent has: a work year of 247 days, 355 farm and home visits, received 492 office calls, made and received 641 telephone calls, prepared 27 news articles, prepared 49 radio talks, attended and conducted 86 meetings, analyzed and made recommendations for 114 different soil samples and distributed 763 bulletins and a host of circular and personal letters.