

other entries were larger than for past years. V. P. I. judges included Prof. Paul M. Reaves, Prof. C. C. Brooks, F. H. Scott, Reie M. Godsey and Denver Bragg.

#### How Next Year's Work Can Be Strengthened

In the light of the current year's experience, it is felt by the agents that next year's work can be strengthened by referring to the plan of work and to check on what has or has not been done more frequently. Perhaps not quite as many activities should be planned and more time given to fewer jobs to bring about their more successful completion. More timeliness in getting certain information out to the farmers - late enough that it will not be forgotten before time for it to be put to use and early enough that it will not be too late to be used - should bring about more effective results.

Now that the work of the county soil survey, started in April, is well under way and the three agronomists in the county have had an opportunity to become familiar with the many varied soils, the agronomy program can be made more effective for the coming year by making more use of the services of the members of the survey party. Their help should be particularly effective in selecting the proper soils in the program to increase the acreage and per-acre yields of alfalfa.

It is also felt that more field meetings, tours, general meetings and personal contacts to supplement the present wide use of circulars, letters, newspaper articles, bulletins and leaflets can make the Extension Program more effective in 1959.

150 attended these demonstrations and about 200 traps were distributed.

Arrangements were made for two local farm supply dealers to make ground hog cartridges available to farmers of the county. 600 cartridges were ordered and all farmers were urged, through a circular letter and newspaper article, to use the bombs for controlling groundhogs which have become a serious general nuisance.

A Farmers' Tax Meeting, held at the agents' office on January 23, was attended by 31 farmers. W. J. Nuckolls, Jr., Extension Farm Management Specialist, assisted those attending with their social security and income tax problems. 300 copies of the 1958 Farmers' Tax Guide were distributed from the office in January.

200 copies of the revised farm record books were placed with county farmers in January, about half of which were supplied following individual requests.

A poultry school, with the help of Denver Bragg, Associate Extension Poultry Specialist, was held at Manassas in February with about twenty farm men and women in attendance.

A Farm Finance Conference with Howard Hawks, F.H.A. Representative, leading the discussion, was held at Manassas on March 28.

The Prince William County Fair, held from August 11 - 16 was the largest and most successful yet held with a total attendance of more than 25,000, 216 dairy cattle entries and approximately 300 farm crop and vegetable entries. Beef cattle entries were smaller but all

One (1) boy and an adult leader attended Conservation Camp, July 21 - 26.

7. James F. Johnson was selected as an IFYE Delegate in January and lived in Italy from April to November. His trip was financed on the county level by contributions from civic clubs, 4-H clubs, home demonstration clubs, and individuals.
8. One 4-H member won second place in the district public speaking contest and competed in the State Contest.
9. One boy attended State 4-H Electric Congress, August 28-29.
10. Four (4) records were submitted to the State 4-H Office by county 4-H boys: one (1) each in achievement, poultry, public speaking, and recreation. The following awards were received:

Poultry - trip to Poultry Fact Finding Conference,  
Kansas City.

Recreation - trip to Leadership Camp, Jackson's Mill.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Acting on the request of the County Board of Supervisors and in cooperation with the County Game and Dog Wardens, arrangements were made for, publicity given to and assistance given with the holding of twenty-two fox trapping demonstrations during the week of January 20. The demonstrations were conducted by Nelson Swink, Jr. and Gerald T. Blank of the Virginia Game Commission. Approximately

the State Contest but were ineligible for an award since one member of the team was the winner of a Poultry Achievement Award.

4. Members of the 4-H Honor Club worked throughout the year as junior leaders in their individual clubs. As a club project, they planned and conducted a special program of contests for 4-H club members on 4-H Day at the Prince William County Fair.

The County All-Stars served as a youth committee to plan club work for the year.

5. Approximately forty (40) percent of the members had entries in the Prince William County Fair, August 11-16.

All 4-H members were admitted free on Friday and participated in the special program planned by the Honor Club. Most of the clubs prepared exhibits for the fair. A Tractor Operator's Contest was also held on 4-H Day with twelve (12) members competing.

Nineteen (19) members exhibited at the Northern Virginia Dairy Show at Manassas. Twelve (12) members also exhibited at the Atlantic Rural Junior Dairy Show in Richmond and at the Fredericksburg Fair.

6. Twenty-five (25) boys and two (2) adult leaders attended Junior 4-H Camp at Jamestown, June 30 - July 5.

Four (4) boys and an adult leader attended Senior 4-H Camp at Jamestown, July 28 - August 2.

6. Have thirty (30) boys attend Jamestown 4-H Camp.

Educational Program and Results:

1. One hundred eighty-five (185) boys and ten (10) girls were enrolled in agricultural projects. Programs on the following subjects were presented at regular club meetings:
  - a. General Livestock and Crop Terms.
  - b. Breeds of Farm Livestock.
  - c. Use of Record Books.
  - d. Care and Management of the Various Classes of Livestock.
  - e. Basic Feeds and Feeding.
  - f. Dairy and Livestock Judging.
2. Seventy-one (71) percent of projects in which members enrolled were completed. One regular club meeting was spent explaining the proper way to keep records. Record books received were more complete therefore giving a more accurate story of each member's project.
3. Nine (9) farmers helped with the training of the county dairy judging team by providing animals for practice classes. The team placed fourth out of eight (8) teams competing in the district contest at Orange, April 19, qualifying them for the State Contest. One member of the team was second high individual. The team placed eighth in the State Contest in June.

The County egg grading team placed first among four teams competing in the district contest. The team participated in

Results:

Dairy Herd Improvement Association members were added.

Reports by dairymen at the last meeting of the Fauquier - Prince William Club, held at Nokesville in September, indicated that those in attendance from the county were raising out one heifer for each two cows in their milking herds. However, most of those reporting were purebred breeders who would be expected to keep more heifer calves than those with grade herds.

D.H.I.A. reports for 1958 show that herds on test have a higher per cow production average than for previous years.

A Northern Virginia purebred holstein sale, to be held at the Prince William County Fair Grounds in the late summer of 1959 has been definitely planned.

Consignments to the 1958 State Holstein and Jersey Sales were made by local breeders.

h-H CLUB WORK

Objectives:

1. Increase interest in and enroll one hundred fifty (150) members in agricultural projects.
2. Increase accuracy and percentage of record books completed.
3. Train dairy cattle judging and egg grading teams.
4. Have County Honor Club and All Stars accept a definite responsibility in assisting with h-H Club program.
5. Have a larger percentage of members participate in County Fair.

efforts to obtain new D.H.I.A. members. Numerous meetings were held, and newspaper articles and circular letters used in this effort.

General publicity was given to the proven ability of the bulls in the three artificial breeding groups serving the county through distribution of circulars and informational material on the bulls.

Frequent meetings of the D.H.I.A. Committee, the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers in the County and the new Fauquier - Prince William Holstein Club were held to consider needs and solve current dairy problems.

A two-page booster, prepared by members of the County Dairy Committee, appeared in the program of the Annual State Dairymen's Convention. This brought out the importance and place of dairying in the county as well as to call attention to production bred heifers and cows available for purchase in the county.

A D.H.I.A. herd analysis meeting was held on March 5. Speakers on dairy feeding and management and new dairy products included Dr. Vernon Baldwin and G. C. Nageotte, V. P. I. Dairy Specialists.

43 local dairymen were accompanied on a tour of the Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers' operations on August 5. The tour included visits to the new association offices and laboratories in Arlington, Va., to the association operated Embassy Dairy in Washington, D. C., and to the association operated plant at Laurel, Md. where the actual making of powdered milk, cottage cheese, ice cream mix and other products from surplus milk shipped to the Washington area was observed. The group was given a preview of the equipment to be used in making sterile milk at the Laurel plant.

quality hay brought in from outside the local area. The effects of artificial breeding are being more fully realized and this program is well sold in the County. Two efficient Dairy Herd Improvement Association Supervisors are on the job and the testing program is on a sound basis, although there are still more than 50 dairymen that are not taking advantage of the service. More alfalfa is being produced and this has a direct bearing on the situation. With the County now a Modified Certified Brucellosis-Free Area, the dairymen feel more secure from the standpoint of the health of their animals with the beef and family cows now brought into line.

Goals:

1. Build up production efficiency of dairy herds in the county.
2. Keep and grow out enough better bred calves to have one heifer in reserve for every two cows in the milking herds.
3. Develop better market outlets for surplus production bred heifers and cows.

Extension Methods:

The need for raising better bred dairy heifers to replace cows culled from the herds was discussed at some six or seven meetings during the year.

A two-county dairy organization, the Fauquier - Prince William Holstein Club, having for one of its main purposes the working up of better market outlets for surplus heifers and cows was organized in April.

The agents and D.H.I.A. directors worked cooperatively in the

All beef cattlemen were given information, through a circular letter, on internal and external parasite control with emphasis on cattle grub measures that should be taken.

Cattle producers were furnished with information on the Fredericksburg fat cattle and the Winchester feeder calf and yearling sales. Inspections were made, tags were supplied and regulations provided.

Wool producers were notified by letter of the loading date for the Fauquier pool with recommendations for handling the clip.

Results:

It is felt that more beef cows were bred to good purebred sires in 1957 but this is questionable for sows and ewes.

Purebred gilts were placed on five new farms as a part of the Sears' pig chain project.

The goal of obtaining one additional Virginia B.C.I.A. member was not achieved.

Approximately 125 feeder and fat cattle were sold through the Winchester and Fredericksburg sales.

A large part of the local wool clip was marketed through the Fauquier pool. Those not pooling, for the most part, made use of the price offered there to build up the return from independent buyers.

The outstanding livestock result of the year was for the County to qualify as a Modified Certified Brucellosis-Free Area.

DAIRY

Situations:

Despite the 1957 drought, per cow production was stepped up through the past winter months through closer culling and the high

## LIVESTOCK

### Goals:

1. Have more beef cows, ewes and sows bred to superior purebred sires.
2. Establish at least one purebred sheep flock in the County.
3. Have ten additional farms keep purebred meat-type sows and boars.
4. Market more cattle through established feeder and fat cattle sales.
5. Make county a modified certified brucellosis-free area.
6. Have one additional herd participate in the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association Program.
7. Work to bring about more widespread external and internal parasite control practices.
8. Have better care given to wool clip and to have producers market their wool to better advantage.

### Extension Methods:

An effort was made to keep livestock herd owners advised of the need for and sources of purebred sires. Publicity was given to sales and attendance was gotten out for the Front Royal Beef Cattle Research Station Field Day and Bull Record of Performance Demonstration. Beef Cattle herd owners were informed of the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Plan through distribution of circulars provided by Dr. Marlowe.

The agents continued to assist in lining up herds in the Brucellosis Control Program.

4. Have five farmers qualify for 125 bushel corn club.
5. Increase average small grain yields by more adequate use of fertilizer and top dressing.

Extension Methods:

Farmers were mailed a localized circular, together with the V.P.I. Leaflet "More Corn Per Acre - Why Settle For Less Than 100 Bushels", in April. Emphasis was placed on the practices used by local farmers in making high yields.

A county corn production contest, with the requirements for membership in County Corn Club to be held at 125 bushels, was announced in April.

All farmers were supplied with V.P.I. corn and small grain varietal and fertilizer recommendations in February and September.

Results:

It is believed that the average corn yield was at least 60 bushels per acre and that the yield objective was met. Yields of 75 to 100 bushels were common due to good practices and the season. Four growers qualified for the 125 Bushel Corn Club.

Recognition was given and a trophy presented to the 1957 "County Corn King" in January of 1958. The presentation of a similar one is planned for the 1958 winner.

Almost continuous rains in late June and early July seriously damaged small grain crops and the harvested yields, especially of wheat and barley, were light.

More credit, however, must be given to the favorable season than to educational activities carried out.

Approximately 3,000 additional acres of improved permanent vegetative cover, suitable for hay, pasture and silage was seeded. It is estimated that 3,500 acres of permanent pasture was top dressed.

Less small grain was seeded for pasture in the late summer of 1958 because of the heavy regular summer growth and the opportunity to hold back permanent growth for reserve use.

Thirteen additional farmers raised Sweet Sudan and Pearl Millet for supplemental summer grazing and it was observed that about all who had previously grown these crops again made use of them in 1958.

It is felt that the objective of harvesting 75% of normal hay requirements was reached.

Perhaps ill advisedly through their own initiative or because of extension recommendations, about half of the orchard grass crop normally used for seed was cut for hay. A bad result of this was that comparatively high priced seed was sacrificed when there would have been enough late or other hay to take care of normal needs.

#### CORN AND SMALL GRAIN:

##### Objectives:

1. Increase the average yield of corn to 50 bushels per acre.
2. Grow corn only on land not subject to appreciable erosion.
3. Plant corn early and use earlier maturing varieties, as far as practical, in order to get corn picked in time, for seeding small grain.

six trench, five snow fences and two bunker silos were furnished upon request. Automatic silage feed equipment, including self unloader and screw type bunker feeder was demonstrated at the farm of W. W. Kline and Sons near Manassas on March 27. About thirty farmers attended.

Information articles, stories and pictures were assembled for a special forage issue of the Manassas Journal Messenger in March.

A 12-Month Forage Exhibit was prepared for the County Fair. Approximately 2,000 copies of forage bulletins and circulars were distributed at the booth.

An Agronomy Preplanning Meeting for county agents was conducted by G. C. Herring, Assistant Extension Director, and W. W. Lewis, Extension Agronomist, at The Peoples National Bank of Manassas Assembly Room on January 7.

Use of higher analysis fertilizers, as 3-18-18 rather than 2-12-12 was emphasized in circular letter in February from standpoint of per-unit savings in cost.

Results:

It is estimated that 550 additional acres of new alfalfa were seeded and that 350 acres were reseeded on farms with run down stands. While the additional acreage was not up to the year's objective since many farmers limited their additional seedings because of having to replace stands injured by the 1957 drought.

A conservative estimate is that an average of four tons of alfalfa per acre was produced or one ton in excess of the objective.

program of the Manassas Buritan Club in April and at the County Agronomy Program Planning meeting. Through the above circular letter and other means of communication, all farmers were reminded of the fact that those who had harvested early hay rather than reserving it for orchard grass seed production, had not made full use of it or had depended on late cuttings, had suffered least from the critical drought of 1957.

Prince William farmers have used tall-grass-ladino mixtures to the greatest hoped for extent as a result of past programs but have not kept pace with proper management to maintain a desirable grass-legume balance. This has been brought up and discussed before one large and three smaller groups but has not been given the time or attention during the past year that it deserved. The circular, "Managed Grazing Pays" was distributed to all farmers on the office mailing list in April and again in September.

Lack of ample forage storage facilities have been and is still a bottleneck from the standpoint of realizing the objective of carrying over a supply of hay and silage from normal seasons. Publicity has been given to the availability of trench, bunker and temporary horizontal silo plans. Attention has also been called to the low cost plastic covers for use on hay ricks and for protecting silage. A meeting was held to observe successful results and feeding practices on a local farm using three trenches for storing ensilage for 250 head of beef cattle. Attention was called to some twenty farms on which trench silos were being successfully used. Plans for

The seeding of more small grain for late fall and early spring grazing was a necessary emergency objective set up following the 1957 drought. Mixtures, seeding rates and fertilizing recommendations were mailed to all farmers in the late summer of 1957. Because of the grazing and forage surplus in the late summer of this year, little emphasis, perhaps inexcusably, has been placed on this practice. This has perhaps been more than made up for by additional emphasis on the reserving of fields for winter pasture when all forage storage space had been filled and hay far in excess of that needed for the coming winter had been harvested on practically all farms of the county as a result of the unusually favorable growing season.

Publicity was given to the Middleburg Dairy & Livestock Forage Schools to have been held in February but were called off because of heavy snowfall. Local attendance was arranged for the Field Day at the Middleburg Pasture Research Station in May.

In the effort to reach the 1958 objective of harvesting 75% of hay requirements from normal lush growth early in the season, general distribution was made of a reprint of an article by Dr. Blosser accompanied by a circular letter calling attention to his comments on restricting early grazing to the acreage on which it was needed so as to make possible the use of the untrod surplus growth for hay or silage and the fact that half of the year's vegetative growth takes place during the first third of the growing season. This was also the theme of talks by Mr. Shoulders at the annual "Farmers Night"

recently revised control circular.

About the same procedure was followed in getting chickweed control recommendations to the alfalfa growers in the county. Both chickweed and the weevil are a serious menace and have to be kept under control to maintain alfalfa stands.

Small groups of from three to seven farmers were brought together in May to observe the results, study the soils and to learn methods followed on three farms where alfalfa was being successfully grown. Seventeen farmers were visited and given individual assistance in selecting locations for and planning for seedings. The bulletins and circulars "Why More Alfalfa" by Dr. R. E. Blosser, V.P.I. Agronomist; "Alfalfa Seeding Suggestions" - V.P. I. Circular 685; "Alfalfa Production in Virginia" - V.P.I. Agricultural Service; and "Alfalfa in Mixtures for Pasture, Silage and Hay" by Dr. Blosser, were mailed to all old and prospective new alfalfa growers in January. This distribution of "Alfalfa Production in Virginia" was repeated in July.

General distribution of the V.P.I. Leaflet "Sweet Sudan and Pearl Millet" in April, discussions of the need for one or both of these supplemental grazing crops as a means of insurance against pasture shortages during the critical summer months at four dairy and other meetings early in the year was followed by numerous individual contacts, mostly with dairymen, in the effort to encourage more farmers to provide supplemental summer grazing.

in mailing two circular letters to all farmers explaining the practices and cost-sharing details and reminding them of the opening and closing application dates, in their personal contacts and through two newspaper articles placed emphasis on the alfalfa and permanent vegetative cover establishment and maintenance practices. The agents have been largely responsible for the local requirement that a farmer carrying out one of the above ACP practices use lime for which need is shown by tests of soil samples submitted at the time of signing up for the practices. Soil sample boxes, together with field history sheets and directions for sampling, were enclosed with the first circular letter explaining the forage practices of the 1958 program. This was again done in a recent (November) circular mailed to explain the forage practices of the 1959 program, the priority sign-up period of which started on November 24 and closes on December 12.

Through a circular letter, distribution of a leaflet prepared by Dr. J. O. Rowell, Extension Entomologist, use of a newspaper article and through numerous visits and telephone calls, alfalfa weevil control recommendations were placed before all alfalfa growers in February. Two sprayings with Heptachlor were generally recommended and experimental use of granulated Heptachlor with fertilizer or by whatever means that might be found practical in getting 40 to 60 pounds distributed while the alfalfa was dormant was recommended. During the past month (November), growers were notified of the approval of use of granulated Heptachlor mixtures and mailed Dr. Rowell's

7. Harvest 75% of hay requirements from normal lush growth in the early season.
8. Have more ample forage storage facilities and labor saving equipment.

Educational Activities:

The local agricultural services including Extension, Vocational Agriculture, Soil Conservation, Agricultural Conservation and Stabilization and Rural Electrification have jointly participated in the forage program. The leadership has been in the hands of a committee made up of selected members of the County Extension Agronomy Committee and representatives of the County Board of Supervisors, Farm Bureau, Newspaper, Electric Cooperative, Banks and Ruritan Clubs. The 1958 program, a continuation of those of 1957 and previous years, was revised with the assistance of John F. Shoulders, V. P. I. Extension Forage Specialist, early in the year. The projected objectives were kept in mind in planning and carrying out the year's activities.

In the effort to reach the alfalfa acreage and yield objectives, publicity was given to the cost-sharing assistance to be had with establishing alfalfa and permanent vegetative cover and with liming and fertilizing to increase alfalfa and general forage yields. A special effort was made to reach farmers who had not been taking advantage of ACP benefits. The extension agents in assisting with the holding of the county and community ACP informational meetings,

objectives for 1958. It was felt that the estimated two acres of all pasture per animal unit, including both improved and unimproved, was far from being sufficient as was the estimated 1.3 tons of all hay, 0.3 tons of alfalfa hay and 1.5 tons of silage per animal unit. Hogs were not included in the total animal units considered because of their limited use of forage in the county. Assuming that 1957 had been a normally productive year, it was estimated that there would have been average per-acre yields of only 2.5 tons of alfalfa hay, 1.3 tons of mixed hay, 1.0 ton of lespedeza and 1.0 ton of other hay. Silage yields were estimated at 9.0 tons for corn and 5.0 tons for other crops.

Objectives:

1. Increase alfalfa from the estimated 2,500 acres of 1957 to 3,300 acres.
2. Produce an average of 3.0 tons of alfalfa hay per acre.
3. Have 4,000 acres of permanent pasture top dressed.
4. Have more small grain and reserve pastures for late fall and early spring grazing.
5. Have ten additional farmers grow supplemental (Pearl Millet and Sweet Sudan) pasture to demonstrate means for insurance against grazing shortage through the normally slack grazing summer months.
6. Establish 3,000 additional acres of improved permanent vegetative cover suitable for pasture, hay and silage as needed.

## DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAM

The special interest committees - including Agronomy, Dairy, Livestock and Youth - took into consideration the situations existing in their various fields in recommending 1958 objectives and in suggesting activities to be carried out during the year.

The four committees made up of from eight to twelve members were continued with the active members being retained and new members selected or elected to replace inactive committeemen of the past year. In the four programs, objectives were set up and agreed upon by the committeemen. Extension methods to be used in the efforts to reach the different objectives were planned as far as possible in committee sessions. The number of meetings, to check on progress and to consider further detailed activities varied from one for the livestock committee to fourteen for the dairy committee.

As in past years the more the program responsibilities were taken by the committees, the more successful they have been. 1960 long time objectives were kept in mind but some changes and revisions were made to make them more practical and to meet changing situations.

### AGRONOMY

#### 12-Month Forage Program

##### General Forage Situation:

County forage data, based on 1955 forage productions and livestock numbers census reports, along with estimates for the ensuing years, was given careful consideration by the County Extension Agronomy Committee in recommending that the program to increase forage production be continued and in setting up the following forage

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Development of Agricultural Extension Program.....	1
Agronomy.....	1
A. 12-Month Forage Program.....	1
B. Corn and Small Grain.....	9
Livestock.....	11
Dairy.....	12
4-H Club.....	15
Miscellaneous Activities.....	18
How Next Year's Work Can Be Strengthened.....	20

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PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY  
VIRGINIA

Frank D. Cox, County Agent

William C. Trenary, III, Assistant County Agent

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

Frank D. Cox

**Name**

County

**Agent**

**Title**

William C. Trenary, III

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**



1958

Prince William

**County**