

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1964

Botetourt

County

Involvement of Local Leadership in Planning and Carrying Out the Extension Program

Agricultural groups and committees that have assisted in planning and program work this year include committees on livestock, dairy, poultry, fruit growers, Ro-Bot Breeders, DHIA, Wool Pool, Chamber of Commerce, Natural Bridge Soil Conservation District, County Board of Agriculture, and Feeder Cattle Association.

The groups assist in their particular field of interest. They have made great contributions in many fields including marketing of beef cattle, lambs, and wool. In other fields they have helped in the sheep scabies eradication program and the heptachlor residue problem in milk.

Four-H Club work in Botetourt county consists of 36 local clubs with a County Council made up of officers from each club. There is also a 4-H Honor Club for outstanding members. Committees were appointed to assist with the county Youth Fair, National 4-H Club Week, exhibits at the Lynchburg Farm Show, county picnic, camp, Achievement Day and other activities. Local 4-H leaders are organized and have held 5 leader training meetings during the year. They are very active and enthusiastic about 4-H work.

Home economics committees are organized in nutrition, millinery, handiwork, ceramics and clothing. Home demonstration members are taking the initiative in the planning of special interest meetings. The county is organized into the Botetourt County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. The Executive Board is the organizational leaders of H. D. work in the county. The County Federation Board takes care of H. D. activities, planning of monthly progress, and special interest workshops.

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PHASE: Horticulture - Fruit Production

There are approximately 20 large orchards in the county which produce apples and peaches. Several growers produce grapes and small fruit. Fruit production is one of the main sources of agricultural income in the county. The producers need up-to-date information on disease and insect problems constantly throughout the growing season.

The main objective is to get the needed educational information on fruit production to the growers. The information changes from week to week since fruit production has become a crop which requires much attention to insect and disease control.

A planning committee meeting was held in January with a selected group of growers to make plans for fruit growers' activities and to solve problems for the 1964 year. The committee decided to hold monthly meetings and outlined the program for these meetings to include their anticipated problems at that time of the year. The program was left flexible enough to bring in problems that would arise.

A special program at the May meeting was planned. The meeting was sponsored by one of the large orchards in the county which furnished a steak supper for the growers in Roanoke, Franklin and Botetourt counties. Approximately 100 persons attended this important function. Other meetings during the growing season were held in the orchard in forms of tours and twilight meetings.

At the last meeting held this fall growers were asked to give their evaluation of the work for the year. They were very much

encouraged by the promptness of the information received through the mail from VPI as well as the meetings and tours at which they got first-hand information on their specific problems. They want to do the program in a similar manner again in 1965.

PHASE: Dairy - DHIA Records

There are approximately 55 grade A dairies in the county. Approximately one third of these are on DHIA test. Only 5 of the herds were on the EDPM program. The dairymen who are on DHIA need to make better use of the records by using them in their production and feeding.

The objective was to get 100% of the DHIA members on the EDPM program and to assist them in using their records to better advantage.

A planning committee meeting was held with key dairymen in January at which time it was found that our DHIA tester was retiring. Since there was a good tester in Roanoke county who was not fully employed, it was decided to merge into a Roanoke and Botetourt association to employ this man full-time. A number two association was also set up with another tester in the upper end of Botetourt county. The Roanoke association was contacted and plans were made and completed for the merger in the spring of 1964. It was decided to ask all DHIA members to switch to the EDPM record. This transition took place and all members were on EDPM program for June. All members have tested their silage and hay through the forage testing program and use the quality codes on their monthly records. A meeting was held to explain the use of forage analysis in determining the dairy ration. This has created much interest with the dairymen in our county. The dairymen have reported great savings in feed costs through the use of this program. We have a stronger DHIA and by the use of the dairy committee 100% of the DHIA members are on the new record keeping program.

OTHER WORK IN THIS PROJECT AREA

Farm management has received quite a bit of special attention during the year. Twelve farmers have kept records throughout the year on the VPI farm records program. These farmers are the cream of the crop from a larger number who were on the program last year. These farmers have been prompt and efficient in their record keeping in 1964.

Another Group I Farm Management School was held in November with Roanoke county. Fifteen farmers attended this school this year. A Group II school will be held in 1965 for the two Group I schools that have been held so far. Farmers have been given individual assistance on the farm in helping to make farm plans.

A poultry educational school was held with the assistance of the Roanoke Poultry Development and Educational Committee. This meeting was held in the Roanoke area last spring. The poultry specialists from VPI assisted in planning and conducting the meeting. Approximately 50 people from the area attended.

A demonstration was held to show dairymen the best milking management practices on their farms. This was particularly helpful in helping the dairymen to control mastitis. Through the use of proper milking management mastitis on several farms has almost disappeared. The agents have worked with two beef cattle herds in the county on the BCIA testing program. These herds will benefit greatly in quality and increase weaning weights per calf.

During the year there has been a great request for recommendations for weed, insect and disease control. This information has been distributed to farmers through circular letters, newspaper articles

and TV programs.

One big problem which came up during the year was the heptachlor residue problem on alfalfa. Meetings were held with dairymen in the county to give them the benefit of all the information that was known concerning the residue problem. Approximately 150 samples of hay and silage have been sent in for analysis from dairy farms to determine the heptachlor residue. We feel like dairymen are on the way to solving this major problem if we can get a good control for the alfalfa weevil.

PROJECT AREA: MARKETING AND UTILIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS

PHASE: Animal Husbandry - Marketing Beef Cattle

The county has over 12,000 head of beef cattle. The quality has been constantly improving due to marketing through organized sales and educational activities. We need to sell more of our cattle through these organized sales.

The objective is to get the most money for the farmer and to help him improve the quality and production of his cattle.

A planning meeting was held with the sales committee in January. Plans were made to conduct four sales during the year. It was decided to send every beef cattle producer information on the sales and what he needed to do to meet requirements for the sale. This was done early in the year so beef cattle producers could have all year to get their cattle ready for the sale. Demonstrations were held in the county on selecting calves for quality, and creep feeding was pointed out as a way of getting increased gains during drought. As a result of the hard work put out by the committee 4,200 head of cattle were sold through the Roanoke Feeder Cattle Sales. Two thousand head of these cattle came from Botetourt county. The quality of cattle was better than ever which pointed out what could be done in working with the beef cattle producers and their committees in a very short time.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN MARKETING AND UTILIZATION OF
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The agents met with the sheep and wool producers' committee to help them set up plans to market their wool with the Alleghany-Bath Livestock Association. All of the wool in Botetourt county was pooled in this manner. Nine thousand pounds were sold.

The Extension agents met with a committee of sheep producers and local livestock market personnel to assist in setting up special sales for lambs during the spring and summer. Approximately 90% of the lambs in the area went through these special sales.

The agent worked with the apple producers and the Farm Bureau in helping to get increased prices for process apples. Work has been done on a marketing organization for processing apples; however, we still have a lot of work to do in this field.

PROJECT AREA: EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

PHASE: Clothing

The Clothing Committee held a workshop in which thirty adults and ten teen-age girls participated. There was a night class and the girls came after school. Singer lent ten machines, and the members in the workshop learned to use and take care of these. They each made a cobbler's apron, a blouse and a skirt. Patterns were fitted to each individual - a straight skirt pattern was used by the slender persons and an A Line pattern by the stouter ones. Two of these members had 50 inch bust lines! Two of these joined a Home Demonstration Club and one wore her skirt and blouse to Achievement Day. There will be similar workshops during 1965.

The Clothing Committee will have a member at the County Clubhouse on the 2nd and 4th Mondays to assist any individuals who have clothing construction problems.

EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

The Leadership Conference at Salem early in the year was well attended by Home Demonstration members. The County Chairman and one of these members visited each Home Demonstration Club in the County and discussed some of the things brought out at this conference. This has had quite an effect. Members in all clubs are taking on more and more responsibility. The Clothing Committee found that they were filling a need of our women in teaching them actual clothing construction.

Two members attended the Leadership Conference at Massaneta and another attended as a State Yearbook Committee and Board member.

There are other committees, Foods and Nutrition, and Millinery. These committees have made great strides in recognizing the needs of the county.

The 4-H Leader's Organization takes definite responsibilities for their individual clubs. Several new leaders are working with the old clubs and one new community club. These leaders work well with the ones with more experience, and together they are doing a good job of molding good club members.

PROJECT AREA: EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

PHASE: Use of Time and Energy

This phase was selected because the average homemaker has become involved in many outside activities in her community. She needs to make the most of her time and energy by using the best methods in doing her housework. She needs to use her automatic appliances to the best advantage.

Objectives were: to learn to use automatic controls on household appliances. To make the freezer a real time and money saver. To plan so as to conserve her time and energy. This was part of the year's program, "To Plan Your Way To A Brighter Day".

Progress was made with demonstrations on Wise Use of the Freezer, Use of Oven Timer, Emergency Food Shelf and Easy Outdoor Entertaining. Discussions and analysis of use of time and energy was done at each club meeting. There was good participation on the part of the club members. The agent as she visited many homes, was asked to check oven timers and go over the instruction book with the owners! Some check questions at later club meetings, showed that members were revising work practices to save time and energy.

PROJECT AREA: EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

PHASE: Weight Control

A weight control clinic was held in the late winter, with nineteen persons completing. Each of these had been checked by the doctor and in the six week period learned the importance of never "crash dieting" and the importance of changing their eating patterns. The discussions were interesting, humorous at times, and very informative. Most of these people had already begun altering their eating patterns before the clinic was over.

PROJECT AREA: EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS

PHASE: Program Projection

Our objective is, and has been, to bring about a greater involvement of our county people, to make our committees more effective and to take a greater part in program planning. The Clothing Committee has done a good job of this and will continue to do so.

Other Home Economics Committees are Foods & Nutrition, Millinery and Handwork. The Foods & Nutrition Committee met several times and they plan a program early in the year to involve many people. The Millinery Committee is planning to involve people who need a beginning workshop, using materials they already have.

The committees are gaining in depth and perception. They see the need of adult education program, and are developing leadership to meet these needs.

PROJECT AREA: 4-H AND OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMS

PHASE: 4-H Electric Project

The 4-H Electric project was chosen by the County Council, leaders and agents to receive special emphasis because 95% of all homes have electricity. The 4-H'ers and families were unaware of the many ways it could be used to make living safer, easier and more enjoyable.

The objective of the Electric project was to assist the 4-H'ers in learning how electricity could be used effectively and safely in everyday living .

To carry out the Electric project a program was planned with the assistance of representatives from Appalachian and Virginia Power Companies. The program was planned to cover the most important phases of the project with emphasis on new uses, safety, proper lighting, and maintenance of small appliances. At regular monthly meetings 4-H'ers gave talks and demonstrations on the subject giving emphasis that month followed by educational talks and demonstrations by Extension agents and by representatives of power suppliers. At the beginning of the year each club member was given a record book and these were completed as each monthly assignment and demonstration was completed. At the end of the year project books were collected and scored. The boys and girls who had the most outstanding record books received an all-expense-paid trip to the 4-H Electric Congress in Richmond sponsored by the power suppliers of Virginia.

A 4-H Electric School was held in April with the cooperation of power suppliers in our area. At the Electric School 4-H Club members learned to repair and make simple appliances. Films and demonstra-

tions were used by agents and power suppliers to show how to use and care for small electrical appliances.

A tour was planned by the leaders, Extension agents and power suppliers to visit an all-electric home and poultry plant. The objective of the tour was to show how electricity is used in a modern home and poultry plant.

Each 4-H'er has exhibited an interest in learning more about the science of electricity. Many 4-H'ers are taking the second year of the electric project as an individual project to do outside of school and 4-H Club work.

OTHER 4-H ACTIVITIES

The year 1964 has been a very prosperous year for Botetourt 4-H Clubs in that they have planned and carried out many 4-H activities. In January they held their annual 4-H baby beef and heifer tour. The purpose of the tour was to acquaint new baby beef club members with old ones and also to provide instructions in feeding, fitting and showing beef cattle. The Honor Club held its annual banquet and 14 new members were invited to join. March was a month of many activities such as achievement record book workshop, judging team work outs, Electric School, county demonstration contests, and the public speaking contest.

The winners in the various county demonstration and judging contests participated in the district contests. The poultry, livestock and soil judging teams that won in the district contests entered the state judging contests held in Blacksburg in June.

The 4-H Share-the-Fun contest which was held in May was a great success. There were more participants this year than in the past five years. Altogether there were about 36 different activities.

Upon the arrival of the summer vacation 4-H activities increased. To start off the summer 4-H events Botetourt 4-H'ers held their annual county-wide 4-H picnic at Traveltown. The attendance set a record for the second straight year as 250 4-H Club members, parents and guests attended. The next highlight of the summer was state 4-H Short Course where about 20 4-H'ers from Botetourt enjoyed a week of wonderful and fun-filled educational opportunities. James Huffman and his sister, Ina, won state awards in Swine and Citizenship respectively. Record numbers of 4-H members filed applications for

camping this year thus pointing up the urgent need of a camp in our district. We had 118 4-H'ers, leaders, and agents to attend camp this year. We could have taken many more had there been facilities available. Club members, parents, leaders and friends of 4-H have worked hard this summer raising Botetourt's share of money for the new camp that is planned for Smith Mountain.

Local, district and state fairs were held and participated in by Botetourt 4-H'ers. We had 42 head of livestock entered in the county Youth Fair and 20 in the district show and 11 entered in the state fair. In addition to livestock canned products, baked goods, poultry, handicraft, garden and field crops were also exhibited at the fairs.

This has been a wonderful year for Botetourt 4-H'ers because it has been filled with many busy, exciting and educational opportunities shared by 4-H'ers, parents, volunteer leaders and agents. We look forward to another new and challenging 4-H year in 1965.

SUCCESS STORY

Although the story of the Clothing Committee has been reported elsewhere in this report, the agent feels that the exceptional work they did is truly a success story! There was a greater need than the agent or the committee realized and they filled it very completely.

The agents met with the committee at the first few planning meetings. They instructed the committee in the latest methods the agents had learned in the workshop in January, 1964. The committee worked out their procedure for each lesson in great detail. Forty persons received instruction and made three garments.

Some of these were non-H. D. members, one was the wife of the County Clerk, three were wives of executives of two local industries. Two have joined an H. D. Club. Five were from a community where there is no organized H. D. work. The committee has done a fine job and will continue to serve in this capacity.

SUCCESS STORY

The West Central 4-H Educational Center

In the early part of 1964 plans were made for a West Central 4-H Educational Center for the 16-county area. Each county was responsible for forming a county organization and collecting funds for the educational center.

In Botetourt county an organization was set up in the spring of 1964 with Mr. F. V. Clarkson, president, First National Bank of Troutville, serving as chairman. About 40 local people volunteered to assist with the organization. The organization started with a dinner meeting at which 100% of the persons invited attended and accepted a quota of \$20,00 to be raised in Botetourt county. We are very happy to report that this quota has been met at this time, and the people of Botetourt county are very pleased with the response which they received in raising the \$20,000 for the 4-H educational center. Everyone felt it was a real challenge for a county of 16,000 people to raise this amount of money.

It was ~~done~~ with the help of good leadership and a good organization which had heard about 4-H and were interested in the young people of our county and area. There were quite a few meetings and a lot of hard work involved in raising this amount of money.

The Home Demonstration Clubs in the county pledged in excess of \$1,200. The 4-H Clubs have had fund-raising events and are well on their way to meeting their pledge of \$1,200. Each club in the county worked hard to meet its part of the quota.

We think that this is our greatest achievement for the year 1964.

GENERAL APPRAISAL OF LAST YEAR

There have been highlights as well as some discouraging things to the Extension workers in the county during the 1964 year. There have been two new Home Demonstration Clubs organized and the clothing group which was reported earlier has caused great enthusiasm for H. D. work which is running at an all-time high.

It has been particularly rewarding for the Extension agents to work with the 4-H program during the year. The 4-H'ers have been more enthusiastic each year and they have been a real challenge to the leaders and Extension workers in the county. Three national winners were selected in 1964; one of which was the national winner in Citizenship.

This has been another trying year for the farmers in our county with a drought for the second year in a row. Extension workers have tried to include all information possible on feed crops and feeding during dry seasons. On top of this problem we had the heptachlor residue in milk which added to the dairy farmers' problems. By working with the farmers we have been able to assist them in getting over these problems.

By working with committees and key individuals we have been able to find out exactly what the people in the county would like to have us help them with during the year. By considering their problems first we feel like the year's work has been more rewarding to the Extension agents, and has been of greater help to the people.