

SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT OF
COUNTY AGENT WORK
IN
VIRGINIA

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RETURN BY MESSENGER
TO SERVICE SECTION

PROGRESS REPORT OF WORK OF COUNTY AGENTS OF VIRGINIA

from

January 1, 1922 to July 1, 1922.

W. P. Moore, Assistant Director.



Following the plan of work outlined for the year numbers of personal visits have been made to farmers and others and meetings have been held in each county during the winter and spring months at which better methods of growing crops, better care of orchards, better feeding of livestock, purebred sires, cooperative marketing of farm products, certified seed and club work, have been discussed. About 1500 schools were visited in the interest of club work, newspaper articles written, and circular letters sent out.

As a result of this activity, demonstrators have been enrolled in all farm crops grown in these sections, in orchard work, including pruning, spraying and cultivation; and feeding of livestock, fertilizer etc.

ORGANIZATION WORK

Tobacco: In the tobacco section work has been continued on the Tobacco Growers' Association until approximately 30,000 farmers, owning 80% of that crop grown in Virginia, have signed up to sell through the above association for a period of five years, beginning with this year's crops.

Livestock: Five new Cooperative Livestock Shipping Associations have been formed, while all of those organized last year have continued to function. About 250 loads of lambs, cattle and hogs, will be sold in this manner at prices considerably above those offered by local buyers, thus saving the members several thousands of dollars. The shipping will become heavier after July 1 and continue so throughout the fall months.

Dairy: A good deal of time has been given to the organization of two Milk Producers' Associations through which the members will have a better market for their milk. While these organizations have not been completed, work is progressing nicely on

on both of them, with splendid chances of success.

Two Cow Testing Associations have been started during the present year. These together with the 11 previously organized are working with 213 farmers owning 5000 cows. Two new cooperative cheese factories have been organized and are making excellent cheese.

Wool:

100,000 pounds of wool have been pooled, either in the State pool or by counties. That portion of the pool sold has netted the owners around 42¢ per pound, while local buyers were offering from 25¢ early in the season, to 30¢ at the time the pools were sold. A considerable number of farmers sold at the lower price, following the custom of contracting their wool long before the clipping season begins.

Trucking:

A Truckers' Shipping Association has been formed in Hanover County. To date 10 cars of cabbage have been shipped cooperatively. Other vegetables will be shipped as the season advances.

25 farmers in Prince Edward County who are growing cantaloupes for market have formed an association and will ship cooperatively. They have already bought their crates cooperatively, thus saving about 10¢ per crate. This is a new industry in that section but the location is favorable and present indications point towards success.

Horticulture:

A Fruit Growers' Exchange has been organized for the purpose of standardizing the packing of apples and cooperative shipping of same. Two community packing houses are being built. One agent reports that 75 square miles have been cleared of cedar trees for the prevention of cedar rust on apple trees.

Farm Groups:

The Southwest Virginia Produce Exchange, organized last year, and which was so successful in selling cabbage, is still in operation and is handling a larger percentage of the crop this year than last at very satisfactory prices.

More work has been done than ever before to induce farmers to buy seeds, fertilizers, lime and other necessary supplies cooperatively. As a result of this effort thousands of bushels of peas and soy beans have been seeded by farmers who have never grown these crops before, or only on a small acreage. Large quantities of fertilizers and grass seeds were also bought cooperatively, saving the farmers many dollars.

VIRGINIA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Crop Improvement Association was organized last year. Its object was to promote the growing of certified seed, which work started last year with wheat, oats, corn, rye, soy beans and cow peas, with a few growers in almost every county where agents were located. The interest in this work and the demand for certified seed has grown immensely. 800 farmers in 90 counties are growing some of these seed for their own use and some for sale. The State legislature at its last session appropriated \$5000 to be used in the promotion of this work. Out of this amount the salary of a specialist is paid, his duty being to inspect crops of members, both in the field and after being harvested, and to issue certificates to those whose seed come up to requirements. This work is carried on under the supervision of the Extension agronomy specialist.

POTATOES

A great deal of attention has been given to the treatment of seed potatoes both Irish and sweet for the prevention of disease. One agent reports 90% of his farmers as having planted certified Irish potatoes. 76 farmers are reported as growing certified sweet potatoes for seed purposes. Several curing or storage houses have been built to take care of this seed.

POULTRY

During the winter an egg laying contest was started among the owners of farm flocks by the county agents under instructions from the Extension Poultry

specialist. About 150 flocks were entered. Records are being kept by each owner and sent in to the specialist at the end of each month, showing the number of fowls in the flock, number of eggs laid, cost of feed per hen, and cost per dozen eggs. It is too early to report on final results yet but so much interest has been aroused that the contest will be carried on another year and a great many more flocks entered.

The agents have had many calls to give culling demonstrations. While some of this work is done all during the year, the larger part of it will be done in August and September.

50,000 standard bred eggs have been placed in the hands of farmers, either through banks or by other interested individuals. In some cases the farmers who receive these eggs get them in exchange for a like number of eggs from mixed flocks, or they agree to give one standard bred pullet for each sitting of eggs received. The banks will collect these pullets in the fall and have a public sale of same. 10,000 baby chicks have been placed in the hands of farmers.

LIVESTOCK DISEASES

400 demonstrations have been given for prevention of blackleg and hog cholera.

LIME

10 new lime bins have been erected whereby farmers can store limestone and haul it at their leisure, thus increasing its use to a considerable extent. 8 lime kilns have been built for the farmers individual use.

PUREBRED SIRE CAMPAIGN

The Purebred Sire Campaign has been continued and over 400 signers added this year to the list of those who will use only purebred stock on their farms. A campaign has also been put on for replacing scrub sires, chiefly among beef cattle.

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To date 108 scrub bulls have been slaughtered and their places filled with purebreds.

LIVE AT HOME CAMPAIGN

A Live-at-Home Campaign has been put on in the tobacco, cotton and peanut sections of the State with the result that those sections of the State are now growing more meat, grain, hay and forage crops than ever before.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK.

Over 5000 boys and girls have been enrolled in some club projects and 131 agricultural clubs have been organized which hold monthly meetings. The agents always try to be present at these meetings to learn the progress of their work and give instructions for its successful completion.

A State Short Course for club members at V. P. I. and four district club encampments are being arranged for July and August. The prospects are bright for a large attendance at these meetings. It is probably that from 400 to 500 boys and girls will attend during the week of July 31 to August 5- the time for the State Short Course at Blacksburg.

COUNTY FAIRS

Thirty agents report that they are assisting in the promotion of a county fair in their respective counties. In a few cases where the county or community fair is a new proposition, the agent is taking a leading part in its promotion. In other cases his work consists largely in advising with the board of directors and secretary and in urging farmers to bring out agricultural and livestock exhibits and make it a real agricultural fair. The tendency for the past few years has been to make it a carnival or midway to the detriment of agricultural interests. The county fairs are largely attended and have proved a good place for the county agent to have his demonstrators and club members exhibit their products, thus giving publicity to his work.

In spite of the fact that we had more bad weather last winter and the roads were in a worse condition than ever known before, more demonstrators and club members were enrolled than in any previous year. The enrollment is still going on in crops to be seeded this fall, such as alfalfa, clovers, mixed grasses, wheat, rye, oats and other cover crops. With progress reports from three agents still out and several of those received not giving figures, we have the following comparison of plans of work as submitted by the agents in the spring and their progress reports just received.

No. Adult Demonstrators Called For in
Plan of Work

No. Adult Demonstrators Reported in
Progress Report

Corn	488
Cotton	
Tobacco	75
Wheat	187
Oats and Buckwheat	61
Alfalfa	294
Red Clover	25
Mixed Grasses and permanent pastures	175
Crimson Clover	64
Sweet Clover	107
Soy Beans	299
Cow peas	145
Bird Eye Bean	5
Peasants	14
Potatoes	35
Cabbage	60
Cantaloupes	
Tobacco Seed Treatment	
Orchards	200
Small Fruit	20
Certified Seed Growers	
Fertiliser	
Lime	22
	<hr/>
	4039

Corn	379
Cotton	
Tobacco	50
Wheat	97
Oats and buckwheat	75
Alfalfa	217
Red Clover	59
Mixed Grasses and Permanent pastures	108
Crimson Clover	28
Sweet Clover	109
Soy Beans	228
Cow peas	91
Bird Eye Bean	4
Peasants	25
Potatoes	75
Cabbage	18
Cantaloupes	28
Tobacco Seed Treatment	400
Orchards	204
Small Fruit	4
Certified Seed Growers- 99 counties	200
Fertiliser	21
Lime	72
	<hr/>
	2303

Purebred Beef Cattle	25
Purebred Dairy Cattle	
Purebred Hogs	
Purebred Sheep	
Poultry	125
Farm Management	
Hog Feeding	59
Cattle Feeding	25
Organizations Formed	49
Wool Pooled	
Livestock Shipping Ass'ns	
Cheese factories established	2
Standard bred eggs exchanged	
Terracing	

Purebred Beef Cattle placed	114
Purebred Dairy Cattle Placed	45
Purebred Hogs Placed	49
Purebred Sheep Placed	107
Poultry	127
Farm Management	25
Hog Feeding	100
Cattle Feeding	3
Organizations formed	17
Wool Pooled	25,000 lbs
Livestock Shipping Ass'ns	4
Cheese factories established	2
Standard bred eggs exchanged	50,000
Terracing	91

Club Members Called For
in Plan of Work

Breeding pig	598
Fattening pig	561
Corn	1006
Baby beef	129
Poultry	1064
Potato	70
Garden	100
Peanut	70
Alfalfa	4
Tobacco	70
Sweet Clover	48
Soy Beans	28
Tomatoes	
Hoe	10
Dairy Calf	198
Purebred Beef Cattle	-
	<u>5828</u>

No. clubs organized	80
Stock judging teams	27

No. Club Members Actually
Enrolled

Breeding pig	918
Fattening pig	361
Corn	1228
Baby beef	118
Poultry	1778
Potato	100
Garden	181
Peanut	94
Alfalfa	1
Tobacco	87
Sweet Clover	81
Soy beans	28
Tomatoes	15
Hoe	19
Dairy Calf	241
Purebred Beef Cattle	<u>20</u>
	5207

No. clubs organized	121
Stock judging teams	28

Report of Paul S. Hlandford, County Agent,
Hannemond county.

I have had more and better spring oats in this county than ever before. Wherever possible, which means in most cases, this oat land has been seeded to cow peas or soy beans. This gives an increase in our hay production. In a number of cases through the trucking belt the early potato land has been seeded to soy beans or cow peas. I should that at least 500 acres have been seeded to these crops this year, which is more than ever have been seeded to this crop in years gone by.

Our new stock law goes into effect the first of January. I am having farmers prepare for this by getting in better stock. I have placed 21 purebred sires in this county this year and have prospects for at least that many more before fall. With what we already have in the county, these will mean a tremendous increase in good blood in the hog line.

I have 70 members of boys' clubs. All are stocking and trying to deliver good results. The leaders are working well.

I have 3 men doing ear-to-row work in the seed corn line. We have had a bad season for this work this year, but they are careful men and are progressing as well with the work as the season will permit.

I have worked to establish a county unit of our peanut exchange and have established a county unit in this county with branches in each magisterial district.

Report of T. D. Barfoot, County Agent.
Chesterfield County.

Adult Work: Demonstrators

Soy beans and silage	8
Abruzzi Eye	2
Alfalfa	6
Oats and Vetch	3
Corn varieties	10
Potato	3
Lime	12

I have been able to have lime distributed for demonstration purposes in all six of my districts. This lime will be used only on legumes and reports made.

Our cooperative purchases has amounted to over 7 cars of fertilizer and lime shipments have just begin to arrive.

We have made all necessary plans for lime, fertilizer and other supplies to be stored in our warehouse at all times for the farmers.

Our Guernsey Association has an attractive price list and will have a county sale at the Fair of registered bulls and tuberculin tested cattle (Grade).

We will have a seed exhibit as feature of our county fair.

Boys' Club Work:

Pig Club	11
Potato	19
Corn	10
Peanut, bees, beans	5

Progress Made on Plan of Work in King George County, Virginia.

Club Work:

(a) Corn Club, 40 members enrolled. All have been visited from 1 to five times and the progress made so far is encouraging. The majority of them prepared their acres well and planted a purebred variety of seed corn and to this date have cultivated their corn from 2 to 3 times. Some got bad stands on account of worms. Crop record books are being kept by all 40 members. Much has been taught older farmers as well as club members along the lines of better seed and better cultivation.

(b) Breeding Pig Club, 26 members enrolled in Sow and Litter projects. The sows were carried over from breeding class of last year and year before. About half the sows have farrowed to the present date. A good many pigs have been sold and the others are being well cared for, some sows that have not farrowed will farrow in near future and those that farrowed early will farrow again in fall. All are registered sows, being bred to registered boars and pedigrees kept up. I have seen every pedigree in person. The majority of members are breeding under a system to have pigs farrowed March and September. The value of same is being demonstrated to adult farmers and hog men.

(c) Growing and Breeding Club Pigs, 45 members enrolled. Some had their own pigs, others got them the middle of May. All good pigs, selected by me in person and are of good type and conformation. Pedigrees have been delivered. I have seen 35 of the 45 since they were put out and all are being well fed and cared for under my direction; better than ever before. Pig club specialist was with me recently and was much pleased with progress members were making and the results being accomplished. All members in both projects are using purebred Duroc-Jerseys.

(d) Two members enrolled in second year work one of which is making good progress with her flock. 25 members enrolled in first year work, all set eggs from purebred flocks. Most of these members got fair hatches in early spring, and the chickens are growing nicely, showing great evidence of good breeding. Records are being kept by all members and great interest is being shown in the work. All members use purebred Barred Rocks.

Club Members Short Course

A good many members have expressed a desire to attend Short Course. Have not pushed this work this far. Short Course will take place in August. Only time and place have been arranged. Enrolling members will follow later.

Adult Demonstrations

Corn:

I have 39 corn demonstrators and in the majority of cases lands were well prepared before planting. All corn demonstrators planted purebred seed corn; worms were very severe on many of these demonstrations and caused poor stands. However, the crops have come out and are looking very good at present, having been cultivated from 2 to 4 times and progressing in fairly good shape.

Wheat:

I have 15 demonstrators in wheat. Only 4 have threshed. Due to the season and bad past yields are running low. The wheat was seeded in good time last fall. Good stand was gotten and came through winter in good shape.

Alfalfa:

There are 14 demonstrators in alfalfa. 9 were seeded last fall. All but 2 have splendid stands and are doing well. First cutting only fair due to cold spring. Second cutting are all about in barge at this time. Some lost their crops on account of rain. In general I think the alfalfa demonstrations are coming on in good shape.

Mixed Grass Demonstrations:

There are 5 demonstrations in this crop. Due to drought last fall the stand is not good on some of them, however, they have come out in fair shape this summer and fair crops of hay have been harvested from some of them. With good season there will be another cutting in fall.

Legume Demonstrations:

There are 12 demonstrators in summer legumes. Those that have matured to this time were poor owing to lack of season. Those to be matured this fall are looking very promising at this time.

Hog Rotations:

10 demonstrations and all in good shape and have afforded good spring and summer pasture up to this time. Hogs have been kept on green pastures and have done well, thus thoroughly demonstrating the value of such crops for hogs. More farmers are practicing this kind of farming and hog raising.

Pasture Demonstrations:

Nothing done with this project as yet but will be followed up this fall and summer.

Wheat Clover:

5 demonstrations- 5 already started and doing well. They were seeded in March, good and fair stands were gotten. Now making fine progress and thoroughly demonstrating its value as an improver of poor and worn out lands. Many others will be seeded another year. All the credit in these demonstrations is due my district agent and there is no better crop demonstration to push in this section.

Farmland Sires:

Will get 10 or more enrolled this year. Have enrolled 3 new ones. Have not started to push this work yet in the way of getting subscribers signed, but have placed a number of sires which will enable the farmer to enroll when the campaign is pushed later on this year.

Tile Drainage of Wet Lands:

There are 5 demonstrators in this project. One large system about completed this year. This system contains about 6 miles. Surveys and amounts of tile have been figured out by specialist in land drainage and myself for 4 other demonstrations that will be in process of construction in near future. Tile already in place for 4 of them. This work is working satisfactorily and progressing in good shape. The importance of such work is clearly brought out when farmers who see it done soon want some of it. Much of the credit of this work is due the specialist in land drainage.

12

Tree Demonstrations:

6 demonstrators, crops good, yields will run well. Farmers are attaching more importance to this crop as there is a great local demand for pasture seeding, especially the Aburui variety which my demonstrators are using.

Rotation Demonstrations:

8 enrolled to present time under a general cropping system which will improve lands, control insect diseases and distribute labor to best advantage. While I have not all demonstrators enrolled in this important work, more will be secured before the year is out and this line of work is progressing to splendid advantage and becoming more in demand all the time.

Green Manure Demonstration:

4 demonstrators to present time. More to follow this summer. Good results are being obtained.

Lime Demonstrations:

About 20 demonstrations, 7 of these using lime last Fall and they are now noting results to their entire satisfaction. Due to results accomplished and the good price I have secured on lime, many farmers who have never used it, will use it this summer. This work is also rapidly coming to the front.

Certified Seed Production:

8 demonstrators to this time. 1 excellent second year corn certification project that is doing fine. Present indications are that there will be 60 bushels of certified corn produced this year.

Second year work on rye is also progressing nicely. First year work on peas and small grain as well as ear-to-row test work on corn are showing up to good advantage. Much of the work done here along this line is due to the splendid assistance I have received from the Virginia Crop Improvement Association.

Organization Work:

I have done more and better work through organization to the present time this year than has been done during the past 8 years due to good prices I secured on fertilizer and lime and cooperative selling of corn which has increased both interest and membership in the organizations in this county. 174 tons of fertilizer have been purchased by our organizations through the State pool at a total saving of \$1,227, 68 to our farmers.

10,577 bushels of corn sold in cooperative shipment at a price of 4 1/2 cents more than offer from old established buyers who have been buying the grain for many years. The total saving on this sale of corn \$475.96 to the shippers. Plans are already perfected for cooperative shipment of wheat and purchase of lime, and summer and fall fertilizer which will mean a much greater saving than the two items above. This saving on fertilizer and corn does not take into consideration the great influence it had on other fertilizer bought and corn sold.

County, District and State fairs:

Little work has been done along this line to the present time, except get exhibits prepared, look after getting donations and prize money placed. All fair plans will be completed within the next two months. All indications to the present time look most favorable towards fairs under my jurisdiction being a success this year.

Livestock demonstrations:

The work of placing purebred livestock and especially sires has progressed well so far this year and will continue to improve. Other lines of work with livestock will be taken up later on in the year.

Other Lines of Work:

Such other lines of work as livestock and crop diseases have been taken care of to advantage, and will continue to be. Other work under this and other heads not listed herewith will be given attention when they come up and are of sufficient importance to work on.

A large part of my time this year has been taken up with organization work and crop and club demonstrations have not had the attention I usually give them. However, I believe the plan of work in general is in better shape and more done to date than ever before.

Report of County Agent Work in Botetourt County.
July 1, 1922.

HOUSH AND OTHERS' HOME WORK.

1. Pig club: Owing to an extra amount of work in distribution of eggs given by the Bank of Fincastle through the county agent and help in the organization of the Botetourt County yam Bureau at the time for enrolling club members, the number of members enrolled was not what was planned for the year. However, 8 members in the Pig Club are doing well with their work, and through pig Club members a number of purebreds have been and are still being placed in the county. Only the best of these are still being sold for breeding purposes. This should place about 40 high bred sows and boars in the county.

2. Corn Club: 5 members are enrolled and carrying out the demonstration in the corn club. Larger numbers were prevented by the same work mentioned above.

3. Poultry club: 26 members are enrolled and carrying out their demonstrations in the poultry club. report of one two year member shows that he made a net profit on his flock started in March 1921 with eggs, amounting to \$61.95 to May 1st, while another starting at the same time with the same number of eggs made a net profit of \$68.47 to June 1st, 1922. One other member bought the first prize pen of Barred Rocks at the Roanoke Poultry Show and won a first on a pullet at the Petersburg Fair. He has disposed of all but his blue ribbon stock and will build up his flock from these.

FARM CROPS:

1. Seed certification: 3 corn, 3 wheat, and 1 soy bean certified seed growers are enrolled and making good progress with their work. One oat grower will be enrolled in the fall. Botetourt County has the only Cocks Prolific grower and the only Casey's Purebred certified seed grower who succeeded in their work for 1921. Much interest has been shown in better seed as a result of this work, as much probably as in any other work.

2. Better methods covering seeds, cultivation, fertilization, inoculation and liming. 6 demonstrators are working their corn under direction of county agent, including top dressing with fertilization where advisable. Many have been advised as to best method of preparation of land, fertilizers to use, crops to follow, etc., a direct record of which is not had in the office. Wheat growers here in many cases been induced not to follow the practice, which is common in this county, of growing wheat two years in succession on the same land. One grower, who was induced to top dress his crop with nitrate of soda, says that this will double his yield and that he will make 20 bushels per acre. This is a good yield in the section for the year due to the fact that it has been a very unfavorable year for this crop. Others who have been using inferior seed have already engaged good seed recommended to them.

3 demonstrators are growing soy beans as advised by the agent as to inoculation, variety, seed growing and place in rotation. A large amount of inoculation was used through the agent's advice and the result of what it showed last year. Farmers are beginning to realize that variety should be considered as well as the crop itself. This applies alike for beans and peas.

3. More general use of lime, especially lime sari found in Botetourt County.

Much publicity has been given to the importance of lime on Botetourt farms; samples of marl have been analyzed through the agents and samples of soil tested to show the lime need, with the result that lime has been used on many fields, particularly for those which are being put in legumes.

LIVESTOCK:

1. Beef cattle: 6 scrub sires have been replaced by good individual registered bulls and several others placed on farms where there was no scrub. This work has been carried on extensively by the agent through newspapers, circular letter and personal visits to scrub owners. 2 registered heifers were placed.

2. Dairy cattle: 3 registered dairy bulls are now in use as a direct result of work along this line. Most of the dairymen of the county realize the advantage of using the purebred sire and are using him on the head.

3. Hogs: Through the Farm Bureau advertising list published monthly by the Botetourt county Farm Bureau and circulated over the county the greater part of purebred hogs fit for breeding purposes are expected to be disposed of in the county, both for club members and other breeders.

POULTRY:

1. 5 demonstration flocks in egg laying contest. These 5 demonstrators were enrolled and 4 of them are still carrying on the work with good results, the other having dropped from the contest.

2. Extensive culling demonstrations. No work has been done this year as open demonstrations the several small flocks were culled for individuals. More will be done in the fall, in better culling season.

3. Caponizing demonstration. With the assistance of the State poultry husbandman 2 very successful caponizing demonstrations were held in the county. 20 interested poultrymen were present.

4. Distribution of eggs for hatching. At the proper season for setting eggs 525 sittings of standard bred eggs were distributed through the agent by the Bank of Fincastle. These eggs were furnished by breeders whose flocks were inspected, culled and mated under direction of the agent. The number of sittings furnished to each was limited to 4 and they were distributed among 200 farmers of Botetourt County. Purebred stock was thus placed in the hands of many who had never kept anything except scrub stock. The breeds used were Barred Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Red and S.C. White Leghorn. The same plan of distribution was followed by the Bank of Buchanan where 100 sittings of Barred Rocks were distributed. This latter was not done through the agent, due to lack of time.

HORTICULTURE:

1. Demonstration in better pruning of orchards: 4 pruning demonstrations were held in different parts of the county, in sections where only a small amount of fruit was grown for home use and where little was known of pruning. These demonstrations were conducted with Mr. Nots, horticulturist, and much interest was shown.

2. 1 demonstration in treatment for root rot. This demonstration is being conducted more as an experiment, using lime on some trees and scalecide on others. Further treatment seems to have given much help to the trees.

3. 3 demonstrators with orchard cared for as advised by county agent and specialist. These are being worked as to spraying, pruning, cultivation, working etc., both being young orchards.

4. To urge thorough spraying and especial care of orchards for 1923. This is being done thru county newspapers, circular letters and personal work.

SHORT COURSES:

1. In conjunction with the Fincastle Agricultural High School and with the County school superintendant an Extension school was held at Fincastle, where lectures by specialists in agricultural work two nights per week for four weeks.

ORGANIZATION:

1. A special campaign was put on by the Botetown county Farm Bureau in which the agent was asked to assist. 300 members were enrolled in this campaign.

TOMATO:

3 spraying and 3 variety demonstrations are being conducted.

Report of Gloucester County, Virginia.
July 1, 1923.

FARM BUREAU ORGANIZED.

The first important work undertaken in this county this year was the organization of county farm Bureau to affiliate with the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation. It was recognized that some organization was needed in the county in order to get cooperation in carrying out a program of Extension work. For this reason the organization of a Farm Bureau was made the major project of Extension in this county for 1923.

With the assistance of Nelson B. Rye, Secty. of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, and C. G. Crockett, President of the Peninsula Farm Bureau, and several interested persons in the county, a campaign for membership was started in the latter part of March. At the end of this campaign we had 199 members in the Farm Bureau, two of which later were dropped. Since organization the membership has grown to 212. Each member joined on a three year membership basis with dues at \$10 per year. After the membership campaign was over a general meeting was called, and officers and directors were elected. The constitution and by-laws were made to provide for the employment of a county agricultural agent in cooperation with the State and National Extension forces, the county agent to cooperate in carrying out the Farm Bureau program. The county agent attends all meetings including meetings of committees and directors and acts in an advisory capacity.

After the county organization was established, the county was divided into ten divisions, and a farm Bureau local was established in each division. These local organizations hold meetings once each month, and through these most of the Extension work is accomplished.

The board of directors of the Farm Bureau has employed an office assistant to do most of the routine work in the office of the county agent and Farm Bureau, which is maintained in the Court House building. A telephone was put in the office in the early part of the Farm Bureau campaign, thus making the office easily accessible to all the people. The office assistant also places orders for Farm Bureau members under the direction of the county agent and Farm Bureau secretary. Notices of all meetings are sent out from this office.

COOPERATIVE BUYING:

The farm Bureau was not organized until after the farmers had bought practically all their fertilizers for 1923. However, a cooperative order was placed for 704 tons, most of which was 16% acid phosphate. The farmers made a net saving of approximately \$628.75 on these fertilizers.

Soy beans were ordered cooperatively. A total of 910 bushels of soy beans were ordered an approximate saving of \$450. The delivered price to the farmers was \$1528.75 on beans.

Orders have been placed for 120 bushels of cow peas. These have not been delivered, but the savings will probably amount to more than \$50.00. This makes a total saving of approximately \$1028.75. Plans are now being made for cooperative purchases of fall seeds.

COOPERATIVE MARKETING:

Several meetings have been held in this county and at West Point in the interest of cooperative marketing of the Irish potato crop, using the Eastern Shore of Virginia Produce Exchange as the selling agency. These efforts have met with some success. The Exchange has established a receiving station at West Point,

and a large number of potato growers of this county are selling potatoes through this channel. There are a few growers on the eastern side of the county who are selling through the Exchange by loading potatoes on cars at Cape Charles.

County agent, J. D. Hutchinson of King and Queen, and King William counties deserves credit for the establishment of the Exchange at West Point. A large part of the potatoes handled there are coming from this county as a result of the efforts of the county agent through the Farm Bureau of this county. These efforts have resulted in more thought being given to the matter of grading potatoes by the farmers of this county. They are now beginning to realize the necessity and value of properly grading their products, and I believe that more attention will be given to this matter.

Returns have not yet been secured by the potato growers of the county who graded and sold through the Exchange, and much of the crop is yet unsold. However, it is believed that a profit of about 75% per barrel will be realized as a result of selling through the Exchange and standardizing the product.

Several wool growers planned to sell wool through the Farm Bureau, but the volume was not sufficient to make this practicable, so the growers were advised to ship their wool to the State Sheep and Wool Growers' Cooperative Association at Alexandria, Va., and mingle their wool in a State pool. A few of the wool growers did this, but others needed immediate cash and sold on the open market. Returns have not yet been secured from the Association, so the outcome of this is not yet known.

Seed Certification:

At present there are 17 men enrolled as demonstrators in sweet potato seed certification work. About 18 bushels of certified Porto Rico Sweet potatoes were secured and bedded. Four men failed to treat the seed before bedding, so these men will either be eliminated from the list of demonstrators or required to secure vine cuttings from other people in order to continue in the work and have their potatoes certified. These men will grow from 1/8 acre to an acre or more of these potatoes from vine cuttings for certified seed to sell in the county or elsewhere.

In connection with sweet potato seed certification work, an effort will be made to build a curing house in which to keep these potatoes over winter. This matter will be referred to further under the heading of Cash Crops.

Several men have been listed as demonstrators in certification work with corn and grain, but several of them failed to make the necessary preliminary steps in this work, due to being over crowded with other work, and as a result of excessive rains. However, there will be one or two men who will make ear-to-row tests of seed corn, and two or three men are saving head selections of wheat and oats to start seed patches for certification work. One man grew V.P.I. No. 1 oats last season for certification. These were inspected in the field and found rather badly infested with smut, and were certified conditionally. These oats made a splendid yield.

It is likely that certification work will be extended to Irish potatoes. Many growers expect to buy certified Irish Cobbler seed potatoes to plant this summer for 1923 seed. An effort will be made to buy these potatoes through the Farm Bureau.

CASH CROPS:

Most of this county is in need of some crop to grow as a cash for market. The county is handicapped by not having any local market of any kind, and in not having a railroad in the county, over which to ship its products. Transportation service on the water is slow and unsatisfactory. For these reasons many farmers of the county are merely living at home and selling surplus eggs and butter in the villages, and some of them sell the surplus hay, grain, calves etc.

Soy beans have been recommended as a supplementary cash crop, and a large quantity of these are being planted in the county. Most of them have been drilled in like grain or corn broadcast, however, so that it is likely most of it will be used for hay. The soy bean crop is looking good.

Irish potatoes are grown quite extensively in part of the county as a cash crop, therefore, efforts have been made to improve methods of marketing these so the farmers will be able to realize more for them. There is no doubt but that there will be more potatoes grown in the county, when a more satisfactory method of marketing is established. I believe a step in the right direction has been made, in getting the Eastern Exchange to sell Gloucester county potatoes. The next step is to persuade the farmers to properly grade the potatoes so they will pass the requirements of the Exchange. This will be done gradually as the non members of the Exchange see the increased profits their neighbors are making by grading potatoes.

Sweet potatoes are being boosted to some extent as a cash crop. The first step in this direction was to get certified potatoes of a good variety for storage in curing houses, and store seed potatoes this fall for sale in the county next spring. If sufficient growers will take advantage of this work next year, a cooperative potato growers association will be established and one or two other curing houses will be built for curing potatoes for commercial purposes. Funds have not yet been raised for the construction of the seed curing house.

The growing of Abruzzi for sale to potato growers on Eastern Shore for seed will be encouraged another year.

To help these projects along, special prizes are offered in the county Fair Catalogue on certified Ferte Rice sweet potatoes, and Abruzzi rye.

Boys' and Girls' Club Work:

Several meetings were held in the schools of the county this spring in the interest of Boys' and Girls' Club Work. Most of the time was devoted to Farm Bureau work, and this line of work was somewhat neglected. However, 29 boys and girls were enrolled in the corn, pig and poultry clubs. The membership is fairly well scattered over the county. However, a sufficient number joined at the Siggins school to enable me to organize a club there with 9 members. This club holds its meetings at the school house once each month. To further promote this work special prizes are being offered at the county fair in the boys' and girls' club department.

County Fair:

This county has not had a county fair in two or three years, but the Gloucester Agricultural Association has been offered the cooperation of the county agent in the promotion of a fair this year. Steps have been taken towards the construction of a new building at the Fair grounds and the catalogue is now being prepared with the view of holding a good fair this fall. The dates for the fair have been set for Sept. 27 and 28.

The county agent is personally responsible for the addition of two new departments to the fair this year. Department F. is for community exhibits, which will be gotten up by the Farm Bureau locals. This department will be managed by the Farm Bureau. Department G. is for Boys' and girls' clubs.

Miscellaneous:

Among other things is planned a Farm Bureau picnic which will probably be held in July or August. One or two prominent speakers will be expected from Blacksburg on this occasion.