

Other Federal Agencies

The Negro farmers in Goochland County are cooperating with Soil Conservation Program, and the A.S.C. Program. Nine farmers had thirty-seven acres in the wheat acreage reserve; also cooperating with the Forestry Service, Farm Credit Social Security, Civil Defense, and many others.

Summary

The farmers of Goochland County are realizing more and more the importance of Extension work and services whereby their income is increased.

One part of the county is becoming urbanized, and we will have to gear our overall program, whereby we can meet the changes that are taking place here in the county.

It is a pleasure to work as the Local Farm Agent for the improvement of the standards of living for all the people of

GOOCHLAND COUNTY.

General Extension Work

Routine work in Extension included a great deal of requests for personal service. Planning for activities is not enough. The agent is expected to be on hand and participating in lawn seeding, soil tests, also livestock and poultry disease. (sick animal calls - sixty-one)

Other routine work activities in which the Farm Agent participates are field meetings, community club meetings, and farm and home visits. (seven hundred sixty-seven for 1962.) Fourteen adult and forty-one 4-H meetings were Extension sponsored this year. In addition, seven non-extension sponsored activities and meetings attended.

Other assignments on official time out of county are: judge at one fair; annual agents conference, State Advisory Board, award program for outstanding farmer of the year, 4-H events, Sweet Potato Show and Sale, achievement program, 4-H Short Course, 4-H Wild-life Camp, and visit to Agriculture Experiment Station.

Office work in general extension program planning consumes approximately one-third of the two hundred forty-six working days this year. There were approximately three hundred eighty-nine official office calls, six hundred two phone calls, and one thousand, three hundred ninety-seven bulletins distributed during 1962.

Special Emphasis

After working with Mr. Judge Mealy for about two years on a plan to get started in raising beef cattle, we first got him to establish a good hay and pasture program on his farm.

On December 1st, he purchased ten head of registered Black Angus cows to start his herd. With this type of farming, Mr. Mealy income will increase as well as the economy.

4-H State Short Course

Goochland County 4-H clubs were represented at the annual 4-H State Short Course by four boys.

The 4-H State Short Course is the highlight and goal of all active 4-H club members throughout the State. It is held annually at Virginia State College and attended by outstanding 4-H club members from all the counties in Virginia having Extension Service Cooperating in the given county.

Four clubs held outings during the summer months which were both educational and pleasurable.

Three clubs observed National 4-H Club Week by attending church service in a group.

4-H Club Work

Objectives

With the adult leadership and cooperation, we are attempting to hold and maintain 4-H club programs here in Goochland County.

Our chosen objective for the 4-H club members is expressed in the following statements. (a) to help rural and urban boys and girls develop desirable ideals and standards for farming, homemaking, community life and citizenship, and a sense of responsibility for their attainments; and (b) to provide for boys and girls the opportunity to "learn by doing" through conducting certain farm and home enterprises and demonstrating to others what they have learned.

Project Work

County 4-H club enrollment was forty-five boys and sixty-four girls. The number of total projects carried was one hundred twenty-one, with a project completion of seventy-two or sixty percent of the one hundred nine boys and girls 4-H club members enrolled for 1962. These members carried the following projects: corn, sweet potatoes, gardens, poultry, cattle, swine, home-ground beautification, home improvement, tractor maintenance, and citizenship.

This year we had four county medal winners in vegetable garden, home ground beautification, safety, and tractor maintenance.

County Wide Improvement

The following improvement have taken place throughout the county this year as a result of the Extension program.

1. Six new homes built.
2. Eight homes painted.
3. Four homes put in running water.
4. Five homes put in electric lights.
5. Seven homes put in telephone.
6. Eight families bought deep freezers.
7. Two bought tractors.
8. Three farmers remodeled barns.
9. One farm pond built.
10. Five farmers built new fences.
11. On three farms, corn storage bins were built.
12. Six homes were remodeled.
13. Eight homes were landscaped.
14. Two poultry houses were built.
15. Three hog houses were built.

Hogs

The hog situation in Goochland County among the average farmer is much better this year than it was two years ago, but there is room for much improvement.

We found that the inbreeding of hogs is just about out. More farmers are practicing better housing, better feeding habits, securing better breeds, and more are going for vaccinating the hog. By carrying out these practices, more and better hogs are going to the market; which means more income for the average farmer.

This was brought about by our hog sanitation and breeding program. It was carried to the people by local leaders, circular letters, meetings, and personal visits.

Small Grain

Other Areas

The farmers of the county felt that they must have a supplement for corn. They are planting oats and barley for home use as well as selling on the market.

Some twelve farmers made the change this year, and the results were they increased their income by twenty percent.

Labor and time played an important factor, along with visits from leaders, agent tours, field meetings, circular letters, and soil tests.

Pasture

Other Areas

After making a survey of some sixty-eight farmers, we found that the average farmer had too little pasture land. So with the help of local leaders, agent farm visits, tours, circular letters we were able to get ten farmers to increase their pasture acreage by establishment of a permanent pasture.

Also, they found out by having their permanent pasture, the feed bill for their livestock was cut by a third; which meant more income to the farmer so he might develop some other needs of the home or farm.

Corn

Major Emphasis

This year we had an increase of ten percent more farmers to plant hybrid corn over last year. We still have more farmers who prefer the old corn.

The corn yields this year were very good; averaging seventy-nine bushels to the acre, which means an increase in cash to the farmer.

It is our goal to have every farmer in the county who grow corn have him grow hybrid corn and to increase their yields since they have small acreages.

These improvements were brought about by securing soil samples, proper fertilizer, visits to the Experiment Station, tours to other farms, visits by leaders, agents, circular letters, and by using recommended varieties.

Tobacco

Major emphasis

Tobacco is one of the most important cash crops in the county. The average yield of tobacco in the county is eight hundred twenty pounds per acre; where as it should be eleven hundred or more pounds to the acre.

The objective of this project is to increase the yield, and by so doing, it will mean more to the economy of the farmer and county.

There are some forty-five sun cure tobacco farmers in Goochland County; of that number twenty of them increase their yields over last year from one hundred to three hundred pounds per acre. Also the quality of their tobacco was better than previous years.

These changes were brought about by personal visits from leaders, agents, visits to demonstration farms where field meeting were held, soil samples, circular letters, use of bulletins, and meetings of local committee members to check on progress from to time to time.

Adult Leaders
County Advisory Board

Major Emphasis

The County Advisory Board is the general planning board or committee that works with the Extension Agent in the county. It is made up of community and neighborhood leaders. These members are selected from the three magisterial districts in the county.

The board met twice this year. Planned a county program, each member pledge to assist with the Extension program in the county. The board arranged four field meetings. One on each of the following: tobacco, corn, pasture, and gardens.

It is estimated that some two hundred and sixty families were reached through the leaders during 1962.

The Board also sent a representative to the State Advisory Board meeting which met in Martinsville, Virginia.

These leaders have done an excellent job this year in help carrying out the extension program on improving farms and homes in the county.

Demonstration Community

Each year a community is set up to represent the county in the State Wide Improvement contest. This year the Hadensville Community was selected.

The people of this community are working to improve their community by applying the rules governing the contest.

The objectives of the Community Improvement Program are: (1) to strengthen farm management and farming practices, (2) To strengthen farm and home demonstration work, (3) to improve family living and home surroundings, (4) to create a more informed and active community leadership, and (5) to develop better communities by strengthening the economic, educational, and social activities.

The community this year made an average of thirty-five per cent improvement on all of the above points. The extension worker and the club leaders are directly responsible for the work.

There are two more communities set up much the same as demonstration community and are working as cooperating communities.