

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

T. W. Allen

Name

Local Farm

Title

Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1960

King and Queen
County

TABLE OF CONTENT

County Situation -----	1 & 2
Types of Soil -----	2
County Organization -----	3
Duties of County Advisory Board ----	3 & 4
Agronomy -----	4
Situation -----	4
Goals -----	4
Forestry Club -----	5 & 6
Horticulture -----	6
Situation -----	6 & 7
Community Improvement Work -----	7
Method of Teaching -----	7
Sweet Potatoes -----	7
Situation -----	7 & 8
Teaching Methods -----	8
Poultry -----	8
Situation -----	8
Goals -----	9
Methods -----	9
Swine Production -----	9
Situation -----	9 & 10
Goals -----	10
Methods -----	10 & 11
4-H Swine Show and Sale -----	11 & 12
National Farm Safety Week -----	12 & 13
Corn -----	13
Situation -----	13 & 14
Pastures -----	14
Cooperating With Other Agencies ----	14
ASC Program -----	14

Situation -----	14
Goal -----	14
Methods -----	14 & 15
FFA Program -----	15
Evaluation of Year's Work -----	15 & 16

County Situation

The topography of the county is mostly flat and gently rolling with some elevations ranging from sea level to about 200 feet above. According to the census report, the average temperature in the county average 38 degrees in January and around 77 degrees in July. The growing season is about 221 days, extending from April 1 to November 8. This atmosphere and moderate temperature makes the production of agriculture profitable. Agriculture is the leading industry in the county and sales from crops and livestock is becoming more and more important from the stand point of supply and demand.

The county is located in the Central Plain Belt, on the upper part of the middle peninsula which is surrounded by the Rappahannock, Pamunkey and York Rivers.

There are 89,198 acres of land under cultivation, nearly 44 percent of the county's area of 203,520 acres. Corn, wheat, and soybeans are the commercial crops. The livestock program consist of cattle, swine, and poultry including turkeys. Vegetable gardening has declined in its importance because of the abundance of produce exported from other states. The economic condition has caused many of the smaller farmers to find employment elsewhere. This condition affects both the man and wife. Therefore, we have fewer home garden growers. Another economic condition facing the rural people in King and Queen is, these people working away from home have little time to work a garden and in many cases they can purchase food cheaper than it can be grown.

The income from livestock including meat animals continue to increase

because of the increase supply and demand. The value of sale from poultry and poultry products seem to remain study. The income from forest products contribute about 5 percent of the farm income yearly.

Sixty-five per cent of the farmers in King and Queen are part-time or residential farmers.

Nearly two-thirds of the county is in wood land; there are 150,000 acres of commercial forest in the county. More than 50 percent of the timber is soft wood.

In writing this report I think that a few words should be stated about land use and county population.

Approximately 6,299 people own and operate 96,402 acres of land, 21,046 acres of land in cultivation. There seem to be a slight increase in the number acres of cultivated land in this county.

There are 234 farm families working with the extension program. There are 199 part owners and 35 share croppers.

Types of Soil

There are many types of soil in the county that is well adopted to many different crops. King and Queen having the varied kinds of soil and good climatic conditions make this county adopted to truck cropping, hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Our well drained soils consists of a good clay sub-soil, such as the Sasaufras and Kempville which are classed as our best farming lands. On these soils most of our major crops are grown. Rumford and Elktan are fine sandy loam soils found in some sections of the county and is classed among those soils having a deep phase ranks second in its importance in farming. These soils leach rapidly and suit best for truck crops, pasture and forestry.

County Organization

In order to maintain the history of the beginning of the County Advisory Board I'd like to express the year it was organized which was October 1936 with an enrollment of 16 men and women participating. The county extension program is yet supported by the County Advisory Board, which is composed of both men, women, 4-H girls and boys attempting to raise the standard of living among people in the county.

The County Advisory Board met three times, the purpose being to make plans and help decide means to solve many of the problems with which the people are confronted with. A committee chosen by the extension assist with planning the county-wide activities, such as picnics, achievement day programs, etc.

There are six adult community clubs in the county with an enrollment of more than 450 families participating. These clubs met seven times, and at each meeting the people were taught improved methods of dealing with their problems of concern. In dealing with the preceding problems mentioned, we kept in mind our county plan of work that was made at the beginning of the year. We attempted to reach as many of the goals as we could, keeping in mind the ways we set up to meet these goals and accomplishments. One of the goals was to reach more families with the planned program. Four additional families have been added to the community clubs.

Duties of County Advisory Board

1. Assist the agronomy committee with 100 Bushel Club and small grain program.
2. Assist with the home improvement and health program in the county.
3. Assist with the planning and deciding on the kind of county-wide

extension activity to be carried out each current year.

4. Assist with the planning and conducting the 4-H club and youth program.

Agronomy

A. Situation

Grain is a universal cereal crop and since it fits well into our farming program, great stress is layed on the production of corn and other small grain for market, home food and for livestock and poultry. Corn, soybeans, wheat and oats are some of the main crops for the county. The hammer mills are being used more and more on our farms for crushing corn and other small grains for livestock and poultry.

The agronomy committee held its fall meeting during October in the Vocational Agriculture Teacher's classroom at Central High School. At this meeting, accomplishments of the 1960 results were reviewed and goals of 1961 were outlined. The members carrying corn and small grain demonstrations showed good results for the past season. Goals were set up to educate the farmers in the following areas; -

B. Goals

1. To encourage more farmers and attempt to produce 100 or more bushels of corn per acre.
2. To join the ASC Program.
3. To take advantage of the social security program for farmers.
4. To use good seed.
5. To make better use of the soil and water program.
6. To use more lime, phosphate, and fertilizer.
7. Plant more trees on idle land.
8. To use recommended fertilizers.

Forestry Club

On July 19, 1960 a group of interested farmers met in the agents office at King and Queen Courthouse for the purpose of organizing a forestry club for King and Queen County. This organization was set up under the direction of Mr. Charles Gill, Extension Forester, Blacksburg, Virginia

After the organization was set up, the group named the club "Fair Pine Forestry Club". At this point Mr. Gill took the group in charge and explained the importance of such organization and the values services being rendered in other counties that have forestry clubs.

The purpose of the Fair Pine Forestry Club is organized to improve, maintain, and increase the diminishing forestry resources of the county and to help increase the income from forestry products.

The persons eligible to participate are adult farmers, land-owners, 4-H club members, and FFA members. Entrants over 18 years of age will be eligible only for the adult award.

The minimum acreage to be entered in the contest is adults three acres and juniors one acre. The contest shall run from October 1 of one year to October 1 the next year.

August 24 and 25 Mr. Gill, Extension Forester; Mr. Hue Burton, District Fire Warden, King and Queen; and the local county agent visited eight of the men who are members of the Fair Pine Forestry Club. On this visit each man signed applications that gave them the rights as members of the organization. On this same visit, they signed to carry out certain practices, such as planting pine seedlings; light bull dozing, poisoning and planting pine and spot setting cut-over acres planting 600 to 800 seedlings per acre.

For the benefit of those farmers who signed up for killing hard wood or releasing, Mr. Gill gave a demonstration instructing the persons to chop around the trees, cutting the bark or inner layer so that the sap cannot penetrate. Take a solution of one quart 2-4-5T. Mix well with ten gallons of kerosene oil. Pour this solution in a squirt can and be sure to get this application well in the seams that were cut around each tree.

He also demonstrated the correct method of setting small pine seedlings with a special made device. This setter can be made by the farmers. After the demonstration was completed, Mr. Gill completed request forms for ACP Cost-Sharing Practice set up for participants to take to the ACP Office December 15 and sign for the payment of his 1960 forestry practices.

Horticulture

A. Situation

The family food budget is yet presenting a grave problem to the people in King and Queen County. The climate is well suited for producing vegetables, however, there are many people who do not make an effort to grow a family garden. This problem is one of the adopted plans by the County Advisory Board in its objectives set up as follows:

1. To get more people to grow their food at home by having a year round garden.
2. To stimulate a larger number of rural families to seed their gardens in early February and March and in some cases, gardens are started in September and October that will stand the winter freezes and give a better supply of winter vegetables.

3. To practice rotation and fertilizer recommendations.
4. To use good seed and practice insect control measures.
5. Store more root crops.
6. To preserve and freeze home foods.

There are demonstrations carried for the purpose of teaching the improved methods approved by the state experiment station. The demonstrations included more than 20 acres of land. In many cases barn yard manure was applied according to recommendation and in other cases green manure crops were turned under to old organic matter.

Community Improvement Work

Prospect and Little Plymouth Communities - These communities consist of 160 farm families. The people actively support the extension program. There are three home demonstration clubs, two 4-H clubs, and many are members of the County Advisory Board, Home Demonstration Committee and 4-H Leaders Association.

Method of Teaching

The methods used in getting the extension functioning was through community and home demonstration meetings, tours, circular letters, home visits, and by delegates attending such meetings as State Advisory Board, Farm and Home Week, tours, and other meetings and bringing reports back. The purpose of this program is to teach the value of improving the homes and to teach the advantage of working together in order to develop a better community by strengthening the education, economic, and social activities.

Sweet Potatoes

A. Situation

Sweet Potato production is becoming more and more a major commercial

crop for many of the farmers in the county. There are 150 acres of land planted to potatoes that produced 15,398 bushels that valued \$30,518. These potatoes sold for \$28,669. This cash crop is becoming more and more popular by many farmers in the upper end of the county, while farmers in the Stevensville and Beuna Vista Districts depend altogether on soybeans and other small grain crops.

B. Teaching Methods

The methods of teaching used in teaching the many problems in sweet potato production to farm people were field meetings, office calls, letters, demonstrations, farm visits, bulletins, and circular letters to inform the people concerning the problems of importance. Other methods were through use of local leaders, lectures, and tours.

Poultry

A. Situation

The poultry situation this year has been fair, including turkey production. There is no difference in the accomplishments made in the 1959 and 1960 records. I believe the poultry prices were more constant through out the season than it has been in the past. We are stressing poultry and turkey production of the economic condition existing. Then too, poultry and turkey production is adopted to intensification, particularly poultry, and because of the fast turn over in production of broilers and poultry for eggs.

Laying hens on farms have decreased in number because of the change in our farming system, commercial production is cramping the small farmers. The egg market is still fair, changing with economic seasons. Usually we have a slump in prices during July, August and September markets when all hens were laying. Later in the season after hens dropped in laying caused the farmers to cull closely.

B. Goal

Our goals for 1961 program are:

1. To increase egg production by culling and proper management of the laying flock, including better houses and pasture.
2. To increase turkey enterprises.
3. To increase broiler production for home use.
4. To increase the number of families who will produce laying flocks for home use and commercial egg production.

Turkeys raised are increasing because of their ability to gain rapidly on waste from the farm. For many years the farmers in this section have been growing turkeys as a sideline and found the same to be very profitable in supplementing their family income.

C. Methods

The teaching methods used in getting accomplishments from this enterprise were discussions in meetings, demonstrations, and bulletins. Four news articles were written supporting the general management of poultry and turkeys. Meetings were held, demonstrations were given and tours were made to outstanding growers.

Swine Production

A. Situation

The demand for hogs to be raised for home use and for market has helped to increase the income for many farmers. The outlook for the past few months has been encouraging.

There are two important factors that are being considered in order to develop a good swine program for King and Queen County.

1. A good breeding program must be followed, bringing in new blood.
2. There must be a good management program carried by the demonstrator.

Swine production is profitable because hogs utilize a large portion

2. of the waste from the house and farm and has the ability to convert a greater portion of the same into marketable produce than any other farm animal in a short limit of time. Another important feature about swine production is, it fits well in - to our small cropping system.

B. Goals

Our goals are to:

1. To continue an educational program, teaching farmers to adjust their breeding program to meet the market demands.
2. To bring in new blood or breeds of swine.
3. To increase the number of farmers who do not have good brood sows and boars.
4. To increase the number of farmers who do not have sufficient pastures.

C. Methods

We are encouraging better swine production through management program, feeding programs, sanitation, and housing methods. The farmers are being encouraged to keep their best and most thrifty gilts in sufficient numbers to carry out a sound breeding program and at the same time increase the blood in their herds. This program was kept before the farmers by tours, farm visits, field meetings, demonstrations, circular letters, and community meetings.

For the months of October and November considerable emphasis has been placed on attempting to strengthen our county 4-H club program. Some of the ways this plan is being accomplished is by adding new special interest projects such as Electric Unit II, special projects in market hogs, money management, along with social activities with

the 4-H'ers in high school.

Last year we had 483 boys and girls enrolled in 21 projects. Three hundred seventeen of these members completed their projects. Our goal for membership for 1960-61 is 500 members and a greater number of projects that will help increase the family income and at the same time give the members educational values along with experience. The cultural values to be received from the 4-H club program are always placed first in attempting to achieve our goals in project instruction.

There are 91 boys and girls enrolled in the 1960-61 market hog program as a result of the 1959-60 success of the sales of hogs sold by 4-H'ers in October at the Swine Show and Sale in Newport News, Virginia.

4-H Swine Show and Sale

Twenty-eight 4-H club boys and girls were enrolled in swine projects for 1960. In order to improve the knowledge and skills of the members carrying swine projects, their project instruction consisted of types and breeds of hogs, care and management of hogs, best types of hogs suited for market and family use such as meat and lard types, feeding, housing, insect control, along with pasture and plenty good water was also major phases emphasized in the teaching program.

As a means of evaluating some of the instructions that were given to 4-H'ers in swine production, two groups were taken to pig parlors. The two demonstrators were growing hogs for market. At these demonstrations, the members saw good feeding programs, sanitation methods, insect control and the types of hogs grown that meet the market demands.

As a result of the 4-H boys and girls participation in the swine club for 1960, twelve 4-H boys and girls sold twenty market hogs Saturday, October 22 at the Swine Show and Sale which was held in Newport News, Virginia. The twenty hogs weighed 5,260 pounds and sold for 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ per pound.

The net return for the sale of hogs brought \$907.35. There were three awards given by the Crown Savings Bank of Newport News for the three boys who sold the top hogs for the show and sale. They were Robert T. Allen, Mattaponi, \$10.00; Arthur Davis Jr., King and Queen Courthouse, \$8.00; and Verdell White, Mattaponi, \$7.00.

National Farm Safety Week

In observing National Farm Safety Week from July 24-30, the county agent assisted one hundred fourteen boys and girls in King and Queen become conscious of the safety slogan "On The Farm, Safety First Will Help You Last". Through the assistance of three leaders and fourteen workers, swimming classes were conducted July 18-29.

Before the classes begun, a swimming program was set up by organizing a systematic program to be followed. Mr. John Scott, swimming instructor from West Point, Virginia was employed by the Local Red Cross Association to give instructions in swimming. He gave lectures and demonstrations to the boys and girls on how to prevent drowning before starting swimming lesson.

The points stressed were:

1. Everyone should learn to swim.
2. Practice staying afloat on water with clothes on.
3. Swim only where there are life guards.

He also taught them how to give mouth to mouth respiration and

He also taught them how to give mouth to mouth respiration and stressed the importance of those who swim should always use life reservers even when riding in a boat.

Out of the one hundred fourteen boys and girls, a large percentage of them who passed the swimming test were given pins and certificates. These awards were presented on the evening of July 29 on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Davis, King and Queen Courthouse. More than one hundred twenty-five boys, girls, men and women attended this affair. Refreshments were served and coco-colas were donated by the Coco-Cola Company.

Mrs. Martha Beane, Chairman of the Red Cross Association for King and Queen County was the guest speaker at this program. She discussed the importance of adults taking an active part in this safety program in order to increase the number of boys and girls to take swimming lessons for another year. We feel that this type of training will help to cut down on the 6,750 persons being drowned each year.

Corn

A. Situation

The 100 Bushel Corn Club was organized in King and Queen County during the year 1950, for the purpose of stimulating greater interest in producing more and better field corn. There were two demonstrations conducted by two adult leaders who carried out the improved practices and methods advocated to grow 100 bushels of corn per acre. More than 55% of the farmers in this county have increase their products as a result of the 100 Bushel Corn Club.

The success made in corn yield has been contributed to the outstanding work done by the demonstrators. These demonstrators has set

a prestige for corn production in King and Queen.

There were 7,262 acres of corn produced that yielded 185,379 bushels. The farmers in King and Queen sold 76,924 bushels that brought \$1.05 to \$1.08 per bushel.

Pastures

In 1950 there were 2,541 acres of land seeded to pasture. In 1954 we had 3,154 acres showing 613 acres of additional pasture land seeded to pasture grasses.

Cooperating With Other Agencies

ASC Program

A. Situation

The ASC Program is yet extending a great relief to the agronomy problems. The extension agent is working with this organization hand in hand in attempting to reach a larger number of farmers each year. The reason for this united effort on the part of the two programs is because each organization is interested in the welfare of the people and the accomplished are greater by working together.

The ASC Program has been a great help to the farmers this year in helping them to comply with the plant more trees program. As a result of this program 1959 and 1960 seasons 836,604 Loblolly and 2,010 White Pines were set out according to recommended practices.

B. Goal

The goal of the two organizations are to get proper land use established on a larger number of farms, to get more land seeded to pine seedlings, and to get more farmers to take advantage of the Soil Bank Program.

C. Methods

The method of reaching the above goals was to encourage the people

to use soil technicians in setting up land use programs. Through the ASC Office the farmers get lime, phosphates and pine seedlings. The farms are signed into the program in order to use up its yearly allocations. The ASC committee technicians, and county agents meet often for the purpose of developing a suitable program for the county. The county agent assisted with publishing and distributing information giving notices and meetings, and places to sign up for the program. The agent attempted to educate the people in the areas necessary for progress.

FFA Program

The extension agent and vocational agricultural teacher are yet working together attempting to direct farm boys and girls to a higher standard of living. For the past two seasons the two agencies sponsored an education program that helped the people with pressure water systems, emphasizing running water to the barns, get parents to support the problem of getting boys and girls take advantage of attending college and other training, and adult farm classes in the demonstration community.

This office has supplied the vocational department with information coming from the extension service such as bulletins, educational methods pertaining to farm groups.

Evaluation of Year's Work

I wish to express my appreciation to the State Extension Service, to the Virginia State College Staff, and to Virginia Polytechnic Institute for the services rendered in getting the work accomplished. It is difficult for me to follow my plan of work because of the many duties calling my attention to other responsibilities. I receive a

large number of request from people and organizations each year and when time comes to make report for the year the results are not measured in terms of accomplishments. Therefore, a full time secretary would add to the results in terms of getting a better extension program over to the people and the program would be kept before the public in a better system.