

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1958

King and Queen _____

County

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COUNTY OUTLAY

King and Queen County, formed from New Kent County in 1691, was named in honor of England's joint sovereigns who had ascended the throne in 1690. Although settlement in this area had begun as early as 1625, population was still sparsely distributed in 1691. The county seat has always been at its present location near the center of the county. In 1950 the population of King and Queen County was 6,299.

King and Queen County (land area 318 sq. m. or 203,520 acres - water area 9 sq. mi.) lies in the Coastal Plain on the upper part of the Middle Peninsula which is formed by the Rappahannock and Pamunkey-York Rivers. The flat or gently rolling land varies in elevation from sea level to about 200 feet. Soils are chiefly sandy clay loam. Temperatures aver 38° in January, 77° in July. Precipitation is about 45 inches annually.

About 72 per cent of the total land area is in forest. There are many small sawmills and lumbering operations, principally for cutting pulpwood which can be readily sold to a large paper mill in nearby West Point. In 1949, King and Queen farmers reported that 6 per cent of their cash income was from sales of forest products, largely standing timber. In recent years this has been one of the larger pulpwood-producing counties in the state. Mineral resources include sand, gravel, brick clay, and diatomaceous earth, all of which are sometimes used locally but few are of commercial importance.

Farming and manufacturing provide employment for the greatest number of people. In addition to the numerous sawmills, the only manufacturing establishment in the county is a large cannery which also runs a large farm. Many local residents, however, work in the big pulp mill at West Point in the adjoining county. Many whose principal income is from manufacturing operate small farms, but there are some very large commercial farms here. There has been recent growth

in dairying and in livestock production, and much farmland has been turned into grass pasture. Hogs, calves, and cattle are the leading livestock types. Whole milk can be conveniently marketed in the cities of Richmond and Norfolk. Poultry, especially eggs, is an important source of farm income but not relied upon as much as formerly. The largest part of farm income in 1949 came from vegetables and field crops. King and Queen ranked seventh among Virginia counties in value of vegetables sold, which include cucumbers, green peas, tomatoes, green beans, and lima beans. Grains and soybeans are the chief field crops. There are grain elevators in this section of Virginia where small grains, particularly wheat, can be stored.

Near Stevensville is a large state-operated fish hatchery. There are no hospitals in the county but most sections can be easily served by hospitals in the city of Richmond.

AGRONOMY

A. Situation

Since grain is a universal cereal crop and since grain fits well into our farming program for this county, great stress is laid 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 cash crops for the county. The hammer mills are being used on many of 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 1958 results were reviewed and goals of 1959 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 use more lime, phosphate, and fertilizer.
2. To join the ASC Program.
3. To take advantage of the social security program for farmers.
4. To use good seed.
5. To use recommended fertilizers.
6. To make better use of the soil and water program.
7. To encourage more farmers and attempt to produce 100 or more bushels of corn per acre.
8. Plant more trees on idle land.

100 BUSHEL CORN CLUB

The 100 Bushel Corn Club was organized in 1950 as a means of stimulating greater interest in producing more and better corn in the county. There are 21 men who have increased their corn yields in many cases more than 65%. Several farmers have exceeded the 100 bushel mark this year.

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 in the county who does 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 get a larger number of rural families to seed their gardens in early February and March and in some cases, gardens started in September and October will stand the winter freezes and give a better supply of winter vegetables.
3. To use good seed and practice insect control measures.
4. To practice rotation and fertilizer recommendations .

5. To preserve and freeze home foods.
6. Store more root crops.

The demonstrations carried have been for the purpose of teaching the improved methods approved by the state experiment station. The demonstrations carried included more than 18 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

The Plainview Prospect community has been competing in the State Community Contest for the past five years and have won several recognitions. The previous award was \$10.00 in cash, given by the State Advisory Board. This past year the community made outstanding improvements.

There are 160 families, one hundred twenty-four are home owners and thirty-six are renters. The people are actively engaged in extension work. During 1958 the following accomplishments were made: 12 homes are being built, 124 homes have been painted, 59 added additional storage space, 18 set out shubbery and seeded grass on their lawns, 126 families had flower gardens, 113 families produced vegetables in sufficient quantity to almost meet their family needs, 29 rooms were painted, 65 rooms were papered, 32 families screened their porches, 22 deep freezers were purchased, and 18 families planted fall gardens.

METHOD OF TEACHING

Through community and home demonstration meeting, tours, circular letters, home visits, and by delegates attending such 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 strenghtening the education, economic and social activities.

SWEET POTATOES

A. Situation

Sweet Potatoes production in King and Queen according to the 1954 census report. There are 114 acres of land planted that produced 16,399 bushels that valued at \$29,518.00. These potatoes sold for \$23,669.00. 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 soy beans and other small grain crops.

B. Method of Teaching

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

POULTRY

A. Situation

The poultry situation this year has been fair, including turkey production. There is not much difference in the accomplishments made in the 1957 and 1958 records. I believe the poultry prices held a little better through out the season than it has in the past few years. We stress poultry and turkey production in this area because of the economic condition existing. Then to, poultry and turkey production is adopted to intensification, particularly poultry, because of the fast turn over in production of broilers and poultry for eggs. The problem of producing broilers for commercial purposes has decreased because of the price the producer pays for feed and baby chickens as compared with the prices paid for broilers. In other words the feedman and buyers get the best part of

money out of the broiler business unless it is done on a large scale. Therefore, the small producer cannot exist and stay in business.

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 good as compared with the previous season. A slump in prices came in 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; and now we have only about 3,800 hens on farms. The commercial producers have been reduced to six. Two of the demonstrators reported that they are getting from 4 to 5 crates of eggs per week or an income of better than \$75.00 a month.

B. Goal

1. To increase broiler production wher possible for home use.
2. Increase turkey raising enterprises.
3. Increase egg production by culling and proper management of the laying flock.
4. To increase the number of families who will produce laying flocks for home use and commercial egg production.

Turkeys raised on farms this year have increased. There will be more than 900 turkeys to be sold by farm families this Thanksgiving and Christmas. Since the year 1938 the farmers in this section have been growing turkeys as a side-line and found the same be very profitable in supplementing their income.

C. Methods

The teaching methods used in getting accomplishments from this enterprise. During the months of January, February and in some cases March more than 90 bulletins, discussions in meeting, and demonstrations were given. Seven 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

Swine raising in King and Queen is one of the increased and family consumption. More emphasis is placed on good blood, keeping mind breeds for show and sales. The outlook for the past few months has been good for those who followed blood breeding practices and marketed their hogs when prices were high. We have many people who sold and culled their herds closely, but are holding to their foundation stock for breeding.

There are three important factors that are being considered in order to develop a good swine program for the county.

1. They are required to have good blooded animals.
2. A good breeding program must be followed.
3. There must be a good management program such as feeding, pasture, and housing.

Swine production is profitable because the hogs utilize a large portion of the waste from the house and farm and has the ability to convert a greater portion of the same into marketable produce more so than any other farm animal in a short limit of time. Another important feature about swine production is it fits well into our small cropping system. More than 260 families had sufficient hogs to supply the families with meat and lard this year.

B. Goal

1. To increase the number of farmers who do not have good brood sows and bears. Have a minimum of 5 brood sows on ten farms.
2. To bring in new blood or breeds of swine.
3. To continue an educational program, teaching farmers to adjust their breeding program to meet the market demands.
4. To increase the number of farmers who do not have sufficient pastures. Get at least 4 more good hog pastures established.

The Yorkshire Hog is yet the most popular breed of swine for market in this section.

C. Methods

We have encouraged better swine production through management program, feed-

ing programs, sanitation programs, and housing methods. As a result of the above name approach more than ten farmers have purchased high grade gilts and males have been placed on farms. The farmers are 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, office calls, circular letter, and community meetings.

As a result of a strong sanitation program and a good pasture program, a small number of hogs are being lost as compared to former years.

PASTURE PROGRAM

A. Situation

With the coming of the machine age, tractors were placed on 90 of the farms in the county and have replaced the horses and mules on farms. This being true, emphasis on producing good pastures for cows, hogs, and poultry has been our goal. During the past five years, we have made great progress with our pasture program. Nevertheless, there is yet a big job to be done. In every section of the county we yet have farmers who doubt the real benefits of a good winter pasture. In order to convince such farmers and the public in general, we have established the following methods:

1. Good pasture demonstration
2. Hold field meetings during winter months.
3. Recommend the use of 500 to 1,000 pounds of 10-10-10, 8-8-8, or 5-10-10 fertilize per acre.
5. In addition to fertilize, approximately 30 to 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre to be applied in the fall.

For the state, in 1954 there were 3,154 acres of land seeded to pasture grass.

In our method of teaching, two objectives were kept before the people. 1. To provide adequate pasture on each farm in the county for livestock and poultry. 2. To increase the acreage of improved pasture and the number of flocks of poultry and livestock where possible as rapidly as economic condition and good farm manage-

will justify.

As a result of the program and inspite of adverse conditions more than 250 acres of Ladino Clover, Orchard Grass, other mixtures and alfalfa was seeded this year.

One other method used in getting more and better pastures established has been the contributions of fertilizer donated by the Plant Food Institute of North Carolina and Virginia. Although program was discontinued in 1957 this institution has contributed 7,000 pounds of fertilizer to farmers in this county in an effort to encourage better pasture management and seeding practices.

Mr. Arthur Davis, King and Queen Courthouse has received fertilizer from this institution for the past five years amounting to 7,000 pounds. As a result, he has established five acres of good lidano clover, orchard grass pasture for his hogs, turkeys, and hens. This pasture has given an average of 180 grazing days per year. For the five years period 1,405 grazing days have brought a large economic change in his farming operation. Davis breed five brood sows and markets over 150 turkeys. He keeps 150 laying hens, two cows and a mule to work the garden.

HAY

A. Situation

The two demonstrations in hay include 24 acres of land. These demonstrations are carried to inspire farmers to grow enough hay to support the livestock on the farm and have some to sell. These demonstrations have three teaching objectives in mind.: 1. To teach others the improved practices of growing hay. 2. To provide adequate hay for livestock and to sell. 3. To increase the quality of hay and to increase the amount of hay per acre.

B. Goals

We have set up the following goals:

1. To get more farmers to use better seed, lime and fertilizer.

2. To have more and better teaching methods of growing hay.
3. To encourage more farmers to grow hay.
4. To conduct at least one tour to see a demonstration at the experimentation.

C. Methods

The methods used in getting these demonstrations carried to completions are:

1. Demonstrations
2. Office Calls
3. Tours
4. Letters and news articles
5. Farm Visits

As was stated earlier in this report, that tractors have replaced horses and mules on many farms; hay is grown for the cows, hogs, and poultry and it is a good method of holding the soils on the land. Hay and green manure crops were not grown extensively. Just a few years ago, field were left bare by many of our farmers who did extensive truck cropping. Soil conservation practices on every farm in the county is one of our long time goals. We are emphasizing better practices of cover crops on more farms each year. As a result many of the small bare acres that were once left idle are now in some kind of cover crop.

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 in this county in helping them to comply with the Governor's plant more trees program. As a result of

this program for the years 1957 and 1958 season 736,700 Loblolly and 1,000 White Pines were set out according to recommended practices. These farmers set a total of 836,700 trees in King and Queen County.

B. Goal

The goal of the two organizations are: 1. To get proper land use established on a larger number of farms. 2. To get more land seeded to pine seedlings, 3. 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 local 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.

ROUTINE WORK

This is one of the difficult counties to work because of its geographical layout. There is no bank, only one factory, no drugstore or town, no veterinarian, no medical doctor or trading center. With a problem of this nature a large portion of personal service is yet required in order to keep the good will of many of the people. The fact still holds that I am called upon to do many things that the people should do for themselves, but this situation is becoming much better. To solve this problem I have continued educational projects, using the services of leaders and other organizations where possible. The problem of vaccinating hogs has been placed in the hands of many leaders who were trained to do the work. This year four more leaders were added who assisted with swine sanitation. Cooperating with other organizations and performing the many county duties ~~will~~ keep me on

the go. Other routine state duties such as Farm and Home Week, State 4-H Short Course, State Wild Life Conference and many other organized efforts require much of my time each year. As a result of participating in these meetings and conferences has caused me to become better prepared to develop and carry out an educational program for the rural people. I prepare news articles once a week for the local paper keeping the people informed. I keep the latest up-to-date bulletins and information in my office for the public. I am in the office at least one or two hours daily as a routine. The services of a part time secretary has released me of many office problems and obligations.

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS - ADVISORY BOARD

County Advisory Board - History

The County Agriculture Extension Board has functioned in King and Queen County since November of 1936. A group of interested men and women met in the courthouse at the county seat with an attendance of 16 men and women who set up the organization with Mr. George White Sr. chosen as president. Each year the organization has continued to grow and function as the county planning committee for the extension service. The more than fifty members consist of home demonstration club women, farmers, and other interested persons.

The Advisory Board works cooperatively with the home demonstration committee, 4-H Council, and the 4-H Leaders Association. This board sponsors delegates to the following activities: Farm and Home Week Program, 4-H Short Course, 4-H Wild Life Conference, and the State Advisory Board Meeting.

DUTIES OF COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

1. Assist with the planning and conducting the 4-H Club and Youth Programs.
2. Assist with the planning and deciding on the kind of county wide extension activity to be carried out each current year.
3. Assist the agronomy committee with 100 Bushel Club and small grain program.
4. Assist with the Home Improvement and Health Program in the county.

EVALUATION OF YEARS WORK

I wish to express my appreciation to the State Extension Service, to the Virginia State College Staff, and to V.P. I. Blacksburg 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 requests from people and organizations each year and when time comes to make my report for the year the results are not measured in terms of accomplishments. Therefore, a full time secretary would add to the ~~xxxxxxx~~ 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.

4-H Council

The county 4-H Council is composed of officers and leaders from each of the clubs in the county. The responsibility of the council is to develop long time plans and programs, and plan for county wide 4-H activities. The officers of the organization are chosen each year and the members consist of the presidents and officers of each local 4-H club. These members represent each club in the county. August 15, a county wide planning meeting was held in the agents' office, King and Queen Courthouse with 22 boys and girls who made plans for the 1958-59 4-H activities. At this meeting the 1957 4-H program was evaluated in order to make improvements on the 1958 program. They also planned the new projects to be carried jointly by the leaders and 4-H club members.

4-H Goal

The 4-H Goal was to promote and foster a stronger 4-H organization.

Methods

This organization re-elects officers each year, mostly in September for the purpose of getting the plans enforced at the beginning of the school term.

COMMUNITY 4-H CLUBS

We have six community clubs including 359 boys and 239 girls of several project groups organized into one club. The community 4-H clubs ~~xxx~~ are set up by the requirements and standards of the state. Each project group of a club has a project leader who acts as an assistant to the club leader.

In the community 4-H clubs we bring a larger group of young people together, holding programs and activities of general interest. The inspirational, social and recreational activities are included in our program in order to maintain higher club spirit and higher ideals.

Project Instruction

It is understood that project instruction has a decided advantage of unity and simplicity in doing strong project work. Each project group held nine or more meetings this year where project work alone was studied and demonstrations worked out together with other activities of particular interest in the project. Each project group has project leaders who act as assistant to the club leader. This help is given at regular meetings and special project meetings or to individual club members. Some of these leaders are: Mr. Baylor Davis, Albert White, Stanley Hickman, Harold Johnson, Frank Harvey and Percie Johnson.

4-H Project Work

There were 349 boys and 235 girls enrolled in 6 4-H Clubs in 1958. These 584 boys and girls carried 651 projects completing 558 of them. Boys were enrolled in such projects as Corn, Forestry, Swine, Sweet Potatoes, Tractor Maintenance, Garden, Home Grounds Beautification; girls were enrolled in Looking Your Best, Meal Preparation, Food Freezing, and Room Improvement.

SWEET POTATO PROJECT

The Upper Tidewater Sweet Potato Project in King and Queen has made some progress over the past two years. The enrollment in potato projects for 1956-57 was twelve boys, for the year 1956 they produced 965 bushels of potatoes. In 1957 they

sold 1,100 bushels. This past season there were 21 boys and 6 girls who produced 1,666 bushels of saleable potatoes that are ~~xxx~~ selling for \$3.00 to \$3.50 per bushel, which should bring approximately \$5,495.00.

These boys and girls have been actively engaged producing sweet potatoes that would meet the demands of the Colonial, A & P, French Market and Siegel's Stores in Richmond and a large number of bushels are sold on the Washington Market.

The educational phase of this project work has been under the direction of Mr. A. V. Watts, Superintendent of the Norfolk State Experiment Station. The instructions for these boys and girls consisted of types of soil, varieties of potatoes best suited for our market demand, soil preparation, fertilization, selection of plants, spacing for early market, spacing in the rows, methods of controlling diseases of potatoes, cultivation, harvesting, grading and packing and preparing potatoes for the show and sale.

Twelve boys exhibited 48 bushels of potatoes at the Sweet Potato Show And Sale in 1957. This year 21 boys and 6 girls will exhibit 90 bushels of saleable potatoes.

This potato project has gained the interest of the parents of these boys and girls. Their cooperation has been outstanding from all angles.

In September five 5) 4-H club boys from upper King and Queen Exhibited $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of potatoes each on the State Fair of Virginia in Richmond. The prizes won were as follows: Roland Holmes, Newtown, first prize of \$8.00. James T. Hill, St. Stephens, second prize of \$5.00 and Harold Johnson Jr., Saltia, \$3.00. These awards have stimulated the interest of more 4-H'ers to place exhibits on the state fair in the future.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PROJECTS

There were 87 boys and girls enrolled in poultry including turkeys. Eighty-three (83) of these members carried their project work to completion. They had 2,300 birds including turkeys that gave them a creditable income for their time

spent in project work. The 44 boys enrolled in swine production; all of these boys carried their projects to completion with 64 animals. These animals included fat pigs or market hogs, sows, and gilts. This enterprise is also becoming attractive to the 4-H boys because of the cash money that they received from the sale of their swine.

The three important factors to be considered in having a good swine program for the adults are considered with the 4-H club program also:

- a. A good management program is carried out.
- b. There must be a good blood in their swine.
- c. A good breeding program must be followed.

The objectives of 4-H Club Work

1. To demonstrate to boys and girls methods to improve practices in agriculture and homemaking.
2. To help rural boys and girls develop desirable ideals and standards of farming, homemaking, community life and citizenship and sense of responsibility.
3. To give boys and girls technical instruction in farming and homemaking that they may acquire skill and understanding in these fields, and a vision of agriculture as a basic industry.

EVALUATION

Looking back as I do today, after more than twenty years of demonstration work, I cannot think of a single phase of extension work that influence the life of an individual more than 4-H club work. It is that phase of the extension program in which we develop character and attitudes of boys and girls and give them some training in farming and homemaking. Since 4-H club work is desired to enrich the lives of boys and girls, and is designed to train the whole person, not just the intellect. The greatest comfort that has come to me and the most satisfaction, is working with the boys and girls, in other words, 4-H club work is the four square development of an individual.

FFA PROGRAM

The extension agent and the vocational agriculture teacher are yet working together attempting to direct farm boys and girls to a higher standard of living. For the two past seasons the two agencies sponsored an education program that helped the people with the following problems:

1. Pressure water systems, emphasizing running water to the barns.
2. Our second goal was to get parents to support the problem of getting boys and girls to take advantage of attending college and other training.
3. 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.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT WORK

The three families who signed agreements to cooperate with the Farm Development program have not been helped by the county and home agent as was planned. The families are Mr. & Mrs. Ollie Alsop, Newtown; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Johnson, Salvia; and Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Davis, King and Queen Courthouse, Virginia.

I would not call this problem a complete failure by not getting many of the plans accomplished as was expected. For example, on the Johnson's family's farm a successful 4-H club sweet potato ~~xxxx~~ project has been completed by Harold Jr. Two of the girls joined our sweet potato show and sale; more than 600 quarts of fruits and vegetables were canned and more than ~~\$1x99x~~ \$400.00 worth of hogs were marketed.

The Davis family has two girls who completed projects in turkey raising and egg production. The county agent has spent more time this past season with the 4-H club boys and girls of these families.