

Some of the outstanding accomplishments by families under this phase of extension program have been largely improved management practices on the farm and improved living conditions in the home.

With the fulltime management Extension worker in the County there are five farms which are being worked on extensively with statistical data to use in backing up and determining the best management practices to be used. The farm of S. C. Vaughn of Montvale, Virginia has been completely reorganized, fields striped and rotations reorganized to meet the feed needs, pasture improvement program, established feeding practices put into operations, and the addition and changing of some of the farm buildings.

This farmer is one of the small average size farms in the county consisting of 136 acres.

Evidence of Mr. Vaughn's enthusiasm of the farm management program which has been set up on his farm through his cooperation is borne out by the fact that he loves to tell his neighbors about what the program is doing for him.

9. Southern States sponsorer of Junior Broiler project.

All of these go for a more profitable 4-H club program of Bedford County and offers opportunities and experiences for reaching and molding better citizens as future leaders of our county and country.

XI. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

During 1960 there were two community improvement clubs in the county, all of which were five years old.

These community clubs being located on the west side of Bedford County were very active. They participated in the Roanoke Area Improvement Contest which was sponsored by the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce and on the county basis they were sponsored by the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce. These community clubs worked on their own initiative, however, at different times during the year the county extension personnel appeared on programs and assisted in any way possible.

There is one thing that seems to be most common among these communities, that is a closer working relationship among neighbors and friends in the community or what you might call "know one another better".

Outstanding activities of the community clubs worked on during 1960 have been raising funds for community center buildings, improving roads, telephone service and many farm and home improvements, including a live at home program.

The Hardy Road Improvement Club came out first in the county contest and second in the area which speaks well for their cooperative community spirit.

Other organizations in the county operating on a community basis are seven Ruritan clubs all of which add to the improvement and standard of living in the neighborhood and respective communities in which they are located.

One of the distinct advantages observed in the community improvement clubs is the fact that adult leadership is more readily obtained.

XII. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT:

The farm and home development program has become a cooperative part of the total extension program of Bedford County and is being accepted well by farm families. To date 23 families are being worked with under this phase of the extension program.

alternate in public speaking for the national contest. J. B. Scott received a 19-jewel watch for outstanding field crops work.

3. Achievement Day:

The 4-H Achievement day was held on December 3 with over 400 people attending. The program was held in the Bedford High School auditorium.

Mr. Roy Kyle, Superintendent of Schools was the principal speaker. Awards and Medals were presented to outstanding club members by the School principals.

Outstanding awards were presented by the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Greens Drug, and Murray Chevrolet.

4. Short Course:

Thirteen boys attended Short Course. These included judging teams, achievement winners, demonstration contestants and all star candidates. Four boys were taken into the All Stars.

5. Camps:

Junior camp was held at Holiday Lake and 60 boys attended. Ten boys attended senior camp at Virginia Beach. To encourage better quality project work the following businesses and organizations sponsor specific activities as follows:

1. Southern Dairies, Incorporated - support a registered dairy heifer chain (3 heifers).
2. Sears, Roebuck Foundation - sponsor a registered pig chain (5 gilts).
3. Big Island Ruritan Club - sponsor registered beef heifer chain (1 heifer per year).
4. Murray Chevrolet, Inc. - sponsor a registered dairy calf (1 calf per year.)
5. Junior Chamber of Commerce - Bedford County Fair
6. Bedford County Chamber of Commerce - Trophies for outstanding 4-H boy and girl each year; also, prizes for 4-H parade.
7. Green's Drug Store - trophy for outstanding dairy exhibitor each year.
8. Machinery dealers of Bedford County sponsor banquet for tractor operator's contest.

parade, Southside Electric Cooperative; Labor Day celebration at Covington and Harvest Bowl Festival in Roanoke.

6. Field Crops:

Seventy one boys enrolled in the field crops projects. Many of these boys exhibited at the Fairs.

7. Tractor - Refer to tractor school in Project clubs.

8. Forestry:

More club members are entering this project each year. Seven thousand trees were planted by club members last year.

9. Electric:

An electric school is held in connection with this project. Also January club meetings are devoted to electricity. Appalachian Electric Power Supplier assist with the electric school and demonstrations.

10. Home Grounds Beautification:

Home Grounds Beautification was the county wide project this year. Emphasis in the club program put on were the following:

- A. Outdoor lighting
- B. Cleaning up home grounds
- C. Pruning shrubs
- D. Planting flowers to beautify the home
- E. Painting mail boxes, fences and outdoor equipment
- F. Planning outdoor living area

Demonstrations were given by leaders and club members on this project.

III. OTHER CLUB ACTIVITIES:

1. Rally Day:

One of the highlights of the years club program was a 4-H rally day held at the Bedford County Lake. Over 800 members attended. Lunch for the group was served the the 4-H Home Demonstration Committee. The climax of the day's program was crowning of the 4-H King and Queen. Each of the 59 clubs prepared a banner with their names so as to be distinguished.

2. State Records:

Ten boys entered their records in the state contests. David Cassell won a trip to Chicago on his leadership book. Saxy Walkup was second

Four boys enrolled in the beef herd project. They have built their herds up from one animal.

2. Swine:

Twenty-six boys enrolled in the Breeding pig project. Ten of these boys received their pig from the county Sears pig chain project. Most of them show their pigs at the County Fair.

Twenty-five boys took sow and litter as a project. This is a continuation of the breeding pig project. A number of the club members took market hog. Some of them show and sell them at the Roanoke Hog show. Last year Bedford County had the Grand Championpen.

3. Poultry:

Club members have become very interested in the Junior Broiler Contest and as a result we have a large number of boys to take the brooding and rearing project.

Gene Cocks of Bedford County won first place in the area and John Cocks placed second.

Eight club members have egg production as their project. Most of them have large flocks of 300-1200.

A lot of the boys exhibited their poultry at Lynchburg Farm Show, Bedford County Fair and the State Fair.

4. Dairying:

Bedford County is a big dairy county and consequently a large number of club members enroll in dairying. This past year 118 boys and girls enrolled in the project. This is one of the county's most successful projects. There were over 60 dairy animals exhibited at our County Fair. Approximately 50 animals were exhibited at the Lynchburg Farm Show. Other shows which club members entered their animals in were: District Show, Roanoke Fair and the State Fair.

5. Pony:

This is a relative new project for our county. It is growing in number of club members each year. Project meetings are held in the summer on horsemanship, feeding, riding and caring of tact. Adult leaders teach these classes. Two pony shows are held each year for the members. Overnight trail rides are a favorite activity of many of the boys and girls.

A drill team was organized as a part of this project. There are 30 boys and girls who ride in this team. They have performed at the Lynchburg Farm Show, Bedford County Horse Show, Lynchburg Training School

3. All Star:

The 4-H All Stars meet twice a year. Also they hold an annual Christmas All Star - Honor Club banquet. The organization selects the new members to be taken in each year. This year Bedford County had 5 boys and girls to be taken into this high organization.

4. Honor Club:

The 4-H Honor Club is composed of 60 4-H club members. To be eligible to be taken into this club a member must be 14 years of age and have successfully completed three years of outstanding 4-H work. The new members taken in each year are initiated at a special meeting held in early December. This is an excellent club and a lot of members work hard to be taken into it.

II. 4-H Project Work and Project Clubs:

1. Project Clubs:

Ampere Club - The Ampere Club is for 4-H boys and girls who enroll in the electric project and attend the electric school. The executive committee assist with the planning of the electric school, teaching and assisting with classes and building the exhibit for electric congress. The president presides over all meetings at electric school.

In addition to planning and assisting with the electrical school the ampere club helps plan an electrical program to be presented to all 4-H clubs during the month of January.

2. Tractor School:

This school is held in connection with the tractor project. Usually about 75 boys attend this school which run one night a week for six weeks. Here the boys meet together at the various implement dealers in Bedford and receive instruction on the care and maintenance of their tractor. The boys attending the school elect their own officers who assist with the school.

3. Automobile Club:

An automotive club is in its initial stage for those members who enroll in the automotive project. It will work similar to tractor school.

II. PROJECTS:

1. Beef Project: Forty-five boys took baby beef as a project. Twenty-two baby beaves were shown and sold at the spring and fall show. Fifteen boys showed their beef heifers at the Roanoke, Lynchburg and Bedford shows.

The present trend in Bedford County among the larger commercial growers is to establish new orchards and replace old trees with semi-dwarf and dwarf varieties. To give growers a better insight on these type of trees a tour was conducted on the farm of J. B. Hodges, Forest, Virginia in connection with the annual Agriculture Field Day.

X. 4-H CLUB PROGRAM:

In Bedford County we find approximately 5600 boys and girls who are of 4-H club age, 10 years to 21 years. There were 1527 of these boys and girls enrolled in 4-H in 1960. There were 58 organized clubs, 54 being school clubs and 4 community clubs.

The 4-H Enrollment is steadily increasing in the county each year. We feel this is caused by the educational program offered and the increase in adult leaders.

I. Bedford County 4-H Club Organization

1. Adult Leaders Committee:

The 4-H leaders committee is composed of men and women who assist with the total 4-H club program. They meet with the extension agents at pre-scribed times. Also they meet with the county 4-H council and advise them when necessary.

2. 4-H County Council

The 4-H County Council is composed of all the officers of the 58 4-H clubs in the county. An executive committee is elected which composes the officers of the council. The council meets quarterly. They set up the goals and help with the entire 4-H program in the county. This council selects the county-wide project for the year, they plan and help carry out the various activities of the clubs. The council sponsors fund raising projects to help defray some of the expenses of the club program. The executive committee is composed of: President, Vice-president, Secretary; Treasurer, Reporter, Junior Club Leader and Song leaders.

The following goals were set up by the County 4-H Council:

1. All members enroll in Home Grounds Beautification.
2. Hold an electric project school
3. Encourage members to participate in the County and District contest.
4. Hold a 4-H Rally Day at Bedford County Lake
5. Encourage 4-H members to enter state contest
6. Have 75 percent record completion.
7. To make this year the best ever in 4-H.

Inasmuch as Bedford County is third in pulpwood production in Virginia, efforts are being made on the part of the forestry committee to stimulate interest in woodland management and reforestation in Bedford County. One of the outstanding activities conducted in the county was the organization of a forestry club in which land owners agreed to carry out a particular forestry practice, which practice was judged in the Fall to determine who has done the most outstanding job in this particular practice. The judging will be followed with a supper meeting at which time a special program on forestry is carried out with the presentation of awards to farmers who have conducted the most outstanding work in a particular forestry practice.

A junior division was also conducted along with the adults which seemed to stimulate a lot of interest.

In addition to the forestry club, tours were made of the pilot forestry demonstration plot on the farm of G. M. Parker of the Facks Church Community. This pilot forestry demonstration showed the practices involved in good hardwood management.

Woodland owners/also encouraged through civic clubs, news articles, radio programs, and personal contact to make use of their woodland as a source of extra income.

IX. HORTICULTURE:

The fruit committee which represents apples and peaches adopted as a goal for 1960 pruning and spraying as a means of producing larger and better fruit.

During 1960 major demonstrations were conducted in five different orchards. Fred Dreiling, Extension Horticulturist Specialist from VPI assisted.

As a results of these demonstrations old orchards are being pruned very heavily, new orchards two to three years old are taking better shape and proper scaffolding and better tree balance is noted. The color and quality of fruit shows definite improvement.

All orchardist both apple and peach are on the spray service mailing list and receive information on each spray dealing primarily with the time of application and material to use.

The complexity of spraying and other details of orchard work necessary to produce good crops along with the shortage of labor has curtailed orchard farming in Bedford County.

The total apple crop in Bedford County for 1960 was estimated to be 20 percent short of a normal crop here which was due largely to drought conditions.

VII. TOBACCO:

Tobacco in Bedford County is one of the major crops from which 870 farmers receive income. There were approximately 601 acres of tobacco grown in Bedford County of the dark-fired varieties, sun-cured, flue-cured and Burley types.

A tobacco committee was organized early in 1960 in which the following problems seem to be of primary importance.

1. Learn more about the better producing varieties
2. The importance of fertilization to the quality of tobacco
3. The use of insecticides and chemicals, insect and sucker control.
4. Need more information on preparing tobacco for market (grading)

In order to assist tobacco growers with the above problems a dark-fired tobacco demonstration farm was selected by the Agriculture Extension Service at VPI to grow eight different varieties of dark-fired tobacco type 21. The farm selected was that of Mr. F. G. Scott, Route 3, Bedford, Virginia. The total results of Mr. Scott's work showed that there was not too much variation between any of the types grown; however, the plots grown the past year were grown in severe drought conditions. The tobacco specialists feel that a year of normal season will show results which will be of value to Bedford County growers. In November 1960 Mr. G. R. Mathews, Tobacco Specialist from VPI with the assistance of Mr. L. D. Flock, conducted a Burley tobacco marketing demonstration which pointed out some of the very important things involved in preparing Burley tobacco for marketing. Eighteen Burley tobacco growers out of 26 were present.

Special fertilizer information was mailed to tobacco growers in the county during the year. Also news articles were used to inform farmers of the importance of being extremely careful in the use of chemicals for controlling suckers and insects.

VIII. FORESTRY:

At the present time there are approximately 215,000 acres of privately owned forestry land in Bedford County with a majority of these receiving very little attention as far as management and good forestry practices are concerned. During the year approximately 85,000 Loblolly pines were planted by individual land owners in the county.

During the year assistance was given the local fire warden in Bedford County, Mr. Ben Martin, in conducting forestry demonstrations and the training of approximately 200 boys of high school age on fire fighting practices.

Both the County Agent, the Assistant County Agent assisted thirty-four farmers in pooling and weighing their wool for sale in June 1960. 5790 pounds of wool was pooled and shipped on June 16.

To date there are three pig parlors in operation feeding out approximately 660 head of hogs per year.

Livestock farmers were encouraged to make further improvements in their livestock farming programs through the use of production bulletins, newspaper articles, radio programs and group meetings.

VI. POULTRY:

Poultry industry in Bedford County is confined largely to family size flocks, however, the trends at the present time seem to be in the direction of large commercial size flocks. At the present time there are only 9 commercial flocks in Bedford County, one of which is broiler producer and 8 are laying flocks.

The poultry committee is composed of 5 members. This committee after making a survey of the situation working up plans for promoting poultry industry, the following problems were encountered:

1. Marketing
2. Quality products
3. Disease control
4. Current information on new layer strains
5. Started pullets
6. Housing and equipment

During the year the poultry committee met on five different occasions, three of the meetings were with specialists from the Poultry Department of VPI. The purpose of the meetings were to get information and try to establish the producers cooperative egg marketing program in which all producers in the county would pool their eggs into one volume which is hoped to be worked through the local frozen foods locker plant in Bedford.

In addition to working on the marketing problem a meeting of poultrymen was held in which feeding practices, disease control and housing was discussed in detail.

To assist poultrymen further with marketing information was mailed to producers and also to feed distributors.

go bulk is now in the process of doing so. Approximately 42 producers in Bedford County ship to the Roanoke market.

Other means of promoting dairy improvement in Bedford County has been through periodic news articles and radio programs over the local radio station and also through the help of WSLR radio and TV farm reporter.

V. K. LIVESTOCK:

Bedford County's topography and climate lends itself well for livestock grazing which is the major reason for the rapid increase in livestock numbers in the county. There are some of the finest herds of registered cattle in Bedford as can be found anywhere, and additional registered herds are being developed. However, the commercial herds are the backbone of the beef cattle industry in the county.

The livestock industry brings in probably the second largest amount of income to the farm people.

According to the 1959 census there are approximately 10,000 cows of the beef breeds on 247 farms.

Problems affecting the livestock farmers in the county as determined by the livestock committee are:

1. Poor quality cattle
2. Marketing and markets inadequate
3. Too small sheep numbers
4. Too many cow numbers on some farms
5. Management
6. Pastures are insufficient

In working with livestock farmers in Bedford County on the above listed problems the County Agent spent 39 days in helping livestockmen through conducting castrating and dehorning and vaccinating demonstrations, assisting with marketing of their calves through the local organized feeder calf sale, selecting registered sires and in several instances helping farmers to cull their herds.

Assistance from specialists of the Animal Husbandry Department, VPI, was secured in giving information on better quality beef and the livestock outlook at the annual agricultural field day held in the county. The herd of Will Knight of Forest, Virginia was used as a demonstration herd for the field day program.

IV. DAIRYING:

Bedford County's dairy population of 11,116 milk cows produce three types of dairy products income, Grade A, Grade C and Cream.

The dairy industry brings in the largest single source of income to Bedford County farmers a total of \$2,891,072.00, an increase of \$935,521.00 during the past five years.

The problems affecting the dairy farmer in Bedford County as determined by the dairy committee are:

1. Poor management
2. Low production of present cow population
3. Need for better sires
4. Disease control (bongs and Brucellosis and Mastitis)
5. More farmers need to test milk production
6. Need for a more mechanized program.

During 1960 the county agent furnished twenty one dairy barn plans. One tour was conducted on the Grade A dairy farm of James O. Watts where over 250 people reviewed. This tour pointed out the most modern arrangements and management features for the average dairy farm in Bedford County, featuring milking parlor, lounging shed, silos and feeding arrangements.

During the year fourteen new herds were added to the Dairy Herd Improvement Association. There are now thirty five farmers participating in the Dairy Herd Improvement Association involving 1353 cows.

A second Dairy Herd Improvement Association is in the process of being organized. Also the 10-4 club was organized this year. The 10-4 club represents all herds that average over 10,000 pounds of milk and 400 pounds of butter fat - nine members.

All of the thirty five DHIA demonstration farmers show remarkable improvement in feeding and general herd management, all of which shows increased production per cow.

Some of the outstanding activities responsible for promoting dairymen to test their herds have been twilight production meetings, tours by interested farmers and the farmers who have made progress with their herds through the test programs and having an outstanding annual meeting program in which interested farmers who are not members are invited to attend. Considerable work was done the latter part of 1960 with producers on the Roanoke Market in informing them of the problems involved and the economy in handling their milk by the bulk system. The roanoke market which is the last market in Virginia to

To help solve the many problems involved in agronomy a committee of sixteen farmers representing each of the magisterial districts set up the following activities.

1. Increase hay production (special emphasis on Alfalfa)
2. Improve permanent and cropland pastures.
3. Encourage farmers to use silage in their feed programs.
4. Farmers be given information on proper fertilization
5. Promote proper use of herbicides and insecticides on farm
6. Help farmers obtain plain "know-how" in proper use of natural resources.

In promoting the agronomy program all ninety eight members of the agricultural committee were given literature explaining alfalfa production, weevil control, fertilization recommendations. Two alfalfa demonstration plots were set up by State Extension Specialist and the County Extension Staff on the farms of Clarence Hawkins and S. W. Ferrow which were used for tour stops and individual stop observation. These plots were properly fertilized and treated for chickweed and alfalfa weevil showing positive results.

Approximately four hundred farmers established improved permanent pastures on their farms. A majority of which secured cost share help through the ASC program.

To promote more and better silage a twenty-ton silage club was set up with fourteen members, but due to severe drought conditions the club discontinued the idea of a contest until 1961. Nineteen new silos were built during the year.

In late winter and early spring approximately 100 percent of all alfalfa in the county was top-dressed using chiefly a high analysis fertilizer with heptachlor. This was accomplished working through the many fertilizer dealers, a number of radio programs, newspaper articles and specifically through the agriculture committees.

An agricultural field day and tour was held in July on the Poplar Forest Farm of James O. Watts, the former summer home of Thomas Jefferson, during which event Ed Mundy, Extension Soil Conservationist pointed out outstanding examples of soil building and soil conserving practices. More than three hundred were present.

Farmers continue to increase soil sampling as a basis for liming and fertilizing their soil. Twelve percent more fertilizer was used on pasture and general crops in 1960.

II. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

In an effort to reach more people of Bedford County through Extension work a definite county program or plan of action to help people help themselves is being projected. All important phases in agriculture and home economics for adults and youth are being included in the program.

The program as it is being initiated in Bedford County includes the following steps:

1. Analyze the situation (people determining where they are)
2. Determining the problems and needs of the people
3. Determining their objectives (where do they want to go)
4. Develop methods of attaining their objectives (what, when, where, how)
5. Evaluating program progress periodically

By following through on this procedure we can see the interest of people being aroused and their support more readily obtained and maintained.

1. In furthering the program development commodity committees have been set up. These committees consist of from five to sixteen members, depending on the intensity of the commodity in the total agriculture of Bedford County.

At present six committee groups are organized and operating very effectively. They are:

1. Agronomy
2. Dairy
3. Livestock
4. Poultry
5. Tobacco
6. Forestry

These committee groups meet annually, also periodically if necessary to carry out specific activities affecting any phase of the total agriculture.

Example: The poultry committee met four times during 1960 working on a poultryman's organization for the purpose of pooling their eggs for better bargaining on the market.

III. AGRONOMY:

Agronomy being the basis of the agriculture program of Bedford County involves approximately 58,872 acres of cropland and 140,681 acres of pasture land, most of it being adapted to the use for which it is being used.

I. BEDFORD COUNTY AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTY:

Bedford County lies at the foothills of the famous Peaks of Otter in the lower Piedmont section of Virginia. The Blue Ridge Parkway and James River bounds this county on the north, also the James River and the City of Lynchburg bound it on the east, the Staunton River on the south, and in a short distance of Roanoke on the West.

Bedford County is the fifth largest in Virginia containing 791 square miles. According to the 1959 census there are 2250 farms - 2037 of which are white operated and 213 negro operated, comprising 693,360 acres of land area. This area is divided into 302,413 acres of farm land of which 121,230 is woodland; 20,600 acres is located in the Jefferson National Forest and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The various enterprises making up the total agriculture of Bedford County are: approximately 11,116 dairy cows, 10,221 beef cattle, 8,113 hogs (home use), 1075 sheep, 67,000 broilers, 34,000 layers, 3,455 turkeys, and 36,000 apple trees (commercial orchard), 4,000 peach trees (commercial and domestic use), 177 acres of flue-cured tobacco, 764 acres of dark-fired and other types of tobacco, and ranks third in pulpwood production; all, of which goes to make Bedford County one of the most diversified farming areas in Virginia. It is also famous for its mining of feldspar which ranks second in the country in amount mined.

Other factors making Bedford County a sizeable agriculture area is its ideal climate conditions, excellent soil type, and convenient markets.

There are three major railroads passing through the county - the Norfolk and Western passing through the center, east and west; the Chesapeake and Potomac passing through the northeastern part along the James River, and the Virginian passing through the south side. One of Virginia's major highways, Route 460, passes through the center of the county east and west. More than two-thirds of the secondary roads throughout the county are now hardtopped, making marketing direct from the farm most practical.

The educational system of Bedford County is composed of nine high schools and twenty-three elementary schools. At present, one modern high school and three elementary schools house the negro students. The other eight high schools and four elementary house the white students. Five of the high schools have vocational agriculture departments with approximately 105 white students enrolled and 70 negroes. At present the school facilities are crowded with more than 7,000 students of school age.

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1960

BEDFORD

County