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A county-wide picnic was held on August 5th at Lee Wayside by the 4-H members. There was a good turnout of around 100 members for the occasion. A group of the county All-Stars led the recreation for the group. This picnic was to encourage the close cooperation of parents and 4-H Club members.

A group of interested members formed the core of a livestock judging team. Six members along with the agent studied and practiced the art of judging. On August 11th the group judged swine at the Purebred Yorkshire Sale in Lynchburg. The group made up two teams of three. One team placed second and the other was third in the contest. The members gained some valuable experiences and training in this activity.

Three interested club members, their parents and agent attended the Junior Hereford Field Day at Hime, Virginia. The members saw some fine cattle, demonstrations on judging, fitting, and showing beef cattle. A team of three members entered the Junior judging contest.

One of the more important phases of 4-H Club work is the spiritual development of each member. Prior to Rural Life Sunday, 4-H members were encouraged to attend church and take active parts in the program. Over 100 members participated in 15 different churches throughout the county. The assistance of the various ministers was helpful with this program.

The agent, with the assistance of members who attended camp the previous year, explained the camp program to all 4-H members. At the Camp at Holiday Lake there were 17 boys, agents and adult leaders this past summer. One boy went to the State Short Course.

### C. Activities

4-H members gain much valuable experience in working with different projects, but probably the most important need is personal development to develop members into desirable and useful citizens. Last year all members were encouraged to participate in the fifth annual 4-H Public Speaking contest sponsored by the Extension, Farm Bureau, and Ruritan organization.

School teachers, agents, and parents assisted members, (15 of these were boys) entered preliminary or elimination contests held in each elementary school. Miss Mary Hille McCoy, Rev. Hugh Ragland, and Rev. Howard Wall served as judges for this elimination contest.

On March 31st the final contest was held at Buckingham Central High School with ten boys competing in the contest. Mrs. Georgia Wilkerson, Mrs. Anne Sanderson, and Dr. Edgar M. Johnson served as judges of the contest. Fifty dollars in prize money was awarded winners by the Farm Bureau and Ruritan organizations. This activity serves to build more desirable citizens that will be the leaders of tomorrow.

At the 4-H Achievement Day there were over 45 entries in crops, livestock, and other exhibits. During the day over 500 4-H members and parents attended the showing and evening program. There was somewhat of a decline in the livestock exhibits from 10 last year to 4 this year. One thing that affected the livestock show was the rainy afternoon.

This year the Five County Fair was held before our local Achievement Day. The number of exhibits at the Five County Fair from our county was very good as well as the quality of the exhibits. Club members from our county won their share of the prizes at the fair.

The 4-H County Council booth that was built around the county-wide project of Health was entered in the Five County Fair and the Lynchburg Farm Show. The booth won first prize of \$20.00 at the Five County Fair and fifth prize of \$5.00 in the Lynchburg Farm Show.

On July 24th the 4-H Club held a cake walk at the Veterans Memorial Hall to raise money to carry out the 4-H activities for the coming year. Around 100 members, parents, and friends came to enjoy themselves at the activity. The 4-H clubbers made \$66.00 to be added to their treasury.

a total of 11,650 pine seedlings that were given free from the Virginia Division of Forestry and commercial pulp companies. A local county forester assisted members in proper planting procedure and the agents visited the project throughout the year to render assistance and make recommendations as needed.

One boy won a blue ribbon in forestry demonstration at the district contest. He represented the district in the State contest where he was a State winner and was awarded a portable radio. In the Junior county forest contest four Club members won certificates for their forest projects.

This interest in forestry probably can be partly attributed to the county-wide forestry project carried last year in the club meetings. This made the members aware of the forest needs and pointed out steps to take to correct it.

One of the livestock projects that received special emphasis this year was the swine project sponsored by Sears Roebuck and Company. The purpose of this project is to induce better breeding stock to different communities in the county and to teach the proper methods of swine production and management to the members that participate in the project. Five 4-H members each received a gilt to raise and breed to raise a litter. Two of these were exhibited at the Five County Fair and two gilts from a Sears litter from last year were shown. One of these gilts was judged the Reserve Champion gilt of the show. Each member received prize money for their efforts as well as the excellent experience they gained in fitting and showing. Each boy that participated in the Sears project gained valuable experience in swine production.

Club members have shown considerable interest in beef and dairy projects. One member has built a small beef herd of quality animals. One of his animals was awarded grand champion beef animal at the Five County Fair. Two members have made a fine showing with their dairy heifers and more interest has been aroused in the dairy project. The agent hopes more interest will develop in these projects.

The Electric project was the center of attention of several 4-H members. Classes were held at Holiday Lake to discuss the uses of electricity. Twelve members completed the project which entitled the winner to a trip to the Electric Congress in Richmond. James Snoddy and the agent attended this Congress. This was a rewarding experience for the winner.

## B. 4-H Project Work

4-H Club members were encouraged to carry projects according to their individual needs, situation, and ability. However, it was felt that certain projects should be emphasized more than others because of their suitability to the county situation. It is through carrying these projects, their completion and recognition of accomplishments achieved, that 4-H members develop into useful and desirable citizens.

In June, 1960, the County Council chose Family Health as a county-wide project for Elementary members and Community Health for the High School senior club members.

Each monthly meeting was devoted to helping members learn and practice methods of health protection in and around the home, and their responsibility in maintaining proper community health standards. The members learned the fundamentals of meal planning, methods of garbage disposal, pest control, function of the Health Department, available clinics and county health programs.

Varied methods, that included demonstrations by members and agents, instructions by agents, exhibits, participation in immunization clinic, radio broadcasts, talks by Public Health Nurse and local Doctor, extension specialist, films, and participation in health drives were used in carrying out the program.

There were 118 members enrolled in the Family Health project and 27 members enrolled in the Community Health project. Several members gave demonstrations relating to Rat Control and Garbage Disposal. Mr. Amos, Extension Entomologist, spoke on household pests using actual specimens for emphasis.

Senior Club members heard the County Health Nurse explain the functions of the Health Department. The members enjoyed a talk by a local Doctor on "Youths Responsibility for Community Health". All members saw a film on "The March of Dimes" and either contributed or solicited contributions for the local March of Dimes and Heart Fund drives.

An educational exhibit depicting a right and wrong home medicine chest was displayed at the Five County Fair and Lynchburg Junior Farm Show.

Forestry Establishment was a project that received a lot of interest by club members. This is a very appropriate project since approximately 75 percent of the county is in forest and much of the land needs reforestation. Members were encouraged to plant as many trees as possible to convert undesirable forest types to productive types. This year we had 40 members enrolled in this project. These members planted a

Throughout the year the excellent cooperation and assistance of the County A.S.C. office, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, and other agencies have been of real value in carrying out Farm Management work in Buckingham County.

IX. 4-H CLUB

A. 4-H Organization

All eleven 4-H Clubs in the county were organized in the public schools and held regular monthly meetings during special club periods.

The 4-H County Council, composed of officers of each individual club, acts as the head organizational group. The first meeting of the council was held in early July to develop plans for the county 4-H program. Committees were appointed to make plans and be in charge of the county-wide picnic, cake walk to raise money for the 4-H treasury, and a County Council fair booth. The Council discussed and adopted the motion of having a county-wide project for the elementary school and a different project for the High School Club. Entomology was selected as the elementary county-wide project for 1962.

The Council felt there was a need to divide the High School Club. Plans were made to have a boys club and a girls club in the High School in 1962. This change was brought about by the large number in one club. With this change it will help meet the needs of the 4-H members by more individual attention.

The second County Council meeting was held in November specifically for the purpose of training new officers. Junior leaders and agents cooperated to train the new officers of their duties and responsibilities in their newly elected offices. Attendance was very good and the training has proven to be most beneficial in improving the efficiency of club meetings.

Plans for the organization of a community club have been discussed and are still in the planning stage. The need for a community club has been brought about by some of the older 4-H members not being able to attend the High School club meetings.

All school authorities have been most cooperative in helping promote the county 4-H Club program.

C. Assistance Received

This year V.P.I. Specialist continued to pay a very vital role in carrying out the Farm Management program of work. Eleven specialists spent a total of seventeen days on 46 farm visits to families in the program during 1961.

Kenneth Loope, Farm Management Specialist, worked in the county four days and three nights with the agent making the analysis on 12 farms that kept the V.P.I. mail-in records in 1960. Mr. Loope also presented one radio program over our local station on Farm Management and the value of good record keeping. His assistance was outstanding because on each farm visit the farmer received good practical information on farm management problems peculiar to his situation and also these visits were excellent training for the agent. R. K. Reynolds, Farm Management Specialist, spent two days in the county training the agent in closing out the 1960 mail-in records on six farms and also assisted in setting up several swine enterprise records. Harold Walker, Farm Management Specialist, returned two complete farm plans worked out on the V.P.I. electronic brain.

Mr. Allan Kates, Weed Specialist from V.P.I. spent two days on ten visits to families in the program concerning problems of spraying to control weeds in corn, alfalfa, and pasture. Interest in this practice is really on the increase and Mr. Kates has been extremely well received by farmers in the county when he participated in demonstrations, and farm visits. He also helped the agent present a radio program in the spring on weed control in corn and pastures.

Mr. Dan Kite, Farm Building Specialist, and Mr. Easley Smith, Farm Machinery Specialist, visited a total of six families in the program assisting with farm building problems of arrangement and construction and farm machinery economics.

Mr. Gerry Mathews, Extension Agronomist, spent approximately one day in the county on several visits to one of the farmers who grew aromatic tobacco for the first time.

Dr. W. P. Judkins and Dr. P. M. Smeal, of the V.P.I. Department of Horticulture, were in the county approximately three days aiding in the development of landscaping plans. Mr. C. D. Wheary, Rural Housing Specialist, visited five of the families in the program during the year. His suggestions and plans have definitely been of real value to the families contemplating and in the process of doing remodeling work.

Soil samples were encouraged on farm visits and radio talks. After taking the samples seventeen farmers were assisted in figuring the most economical fertilization program for their situation.

Other work in Agronomy included budgeting pasture costs on 14 farms, figuring alternatives for feed-grain and wheat program on 11 farms. Participation in a two weeks school this summer furnished valuable information on soils in our area. This training is basic for Farm Management work, especially when working out farm plans. With the assistance of the High School Vo. Ag. Instructors, and H. C. Porter, V.P.I. Soils Scientist, a Buckingham soils exhibit was set up at the Buckingham Farm Show which proved to be of much interest and drew many favorable comments.

### 3. Animal Husbandry and Marketing

Income from beef cattle, hogs, and other classes of livestock are becoming of increasing importance to the economy of the county. Since the profit margin continues to shrink, the practice of applying the dollar sign to the various production and marketing phases of livestock farming becomes more important. In support of the over-all county livestock program, farm management farmers received the following assistance: twenty-four farmers were assisted in selection and preparation of livestock for market. Vaccination of swine or cattle demonstrations were given to two or more persons on 19 farms in the program. Most of these farmers now follow this practice with no further help from the Extension Agent. Budgeting the annual cost of keeping a cow, sow, or ewe was accomplished on 14 farms and 13 farms were assisted with determining the least cost/or time ration. Twenty-five farmers marketed feeder pigs or calves through organized sales during 1961.

### 4. Other Accomplishments

Work was continued on carrying out other portions of their long-time plans for better farm buildings by farmers in the program. With assistance and plans from the Extension office, three barns, two farrowing houses, three silos, and one farm shop were constructed this year.

Twelve farmers in the program planted a total of 48,500 pine seedlings. Other work included continued assistance in carrying out 14 landscaping and remodeling plans new this year or in the process of completion.

B. Program Accomplishments in 1961

1. Farm Records

As was pointed out previously, a good farm record is basic to good management on the farm. Twenty-three farms are now enrolled in the V.F.I. mail-in record program. Twelve were started in January of 1961. Other farmers are furnished record books and assisted with their farm records also. These mail-in records are proving to be a valuable tool for making an analysis on the farm which can point out clearly the weak and strong points of the over-all operation. A goal of 30 mail-in records has been set for 1962.

Enterprise records have an important place also in Farm Management. These records have been encouraged wherever possible. Eighteen farmers are now keeping detailed enterprise records on such project as tobacco, hogs, beef steers, and various crops. This number will be increased to 25 in 1962, if possible.

These different types of records have not only helped the farmer concerned but also the agent. The information furnished by these records is a big help in working with other farmers and also useful for such things as radio talks on farm management, farmer meetings, and general farmer-agent contacts.

2. Agronomy

Farmers in the program played a leading role in carrying out many of the objectives set up by the Extension Agronomy committee. Five beside-the-road comparison demonstrations of from 3 to 18 different hybrid corn varieties were set up on farms in the program. Two of these including spraying with Atrazine for control of weeds and the economics of this practice were figured out for about seven farmers, most of whom adopted same.

Participation in the A.S.C. program and Soil Conservation Service programs sustained continued emphasis with gratifying results. Twenty new permanent pastures were established totaling 210 acres by farmers in the program. Also, there were 396 acres limed and top dressed and an additional 143 acres limed with A.S.C. assistance. Two farm ponds, four sod waterways and 72 acres of contour strips were established on farms in the program with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service.

The other agencies in the county that we cooperated with are Production Credit, Farm and Home Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, Forestry Service, and Vocational Agricultural Department. The agencies are also a big help directly and indirectly in carrying out Extension activities in the county.

#### VIII. FARM MANAGEMENT

##### A. Introduction

The Farm Management assistance in Buckingham County, (although available to all farmers) is primarily concerned with 45 farmers. These 45 farmers form a nucleus for all Farm Management work. This number now includes mostly young farmers who anticipate and desire making changes. These participants have folders in the Extension office in which are kept the information worked out for that farm, inventories, etc. until such time as the farm is no longer actively in the program.

Fifteen of the farms were just started in 1961 in the Farm Management program. Alternative enterprises have been discussed and figured with the operator on 36 of the farms. Twenty-nine have inventory data on file and 21 have farm plans which were developed with the operator with copies in their respective folders.

There are several problems generally common to all farms in the program. Poor farm records head the list of problems and this is actually the easiest in a way to combat. There is always the narrow choice of alternatives due to such factors as lack of available capital, land or labor. Personal preference or skills further limit the alternative choices and in our area opportunities are quite limited for part or full time off-the-farm employment.

In working with the farms the same general procedure is usually followed. We must first know what the farmer is now doing with this present plan. An accurate farm record is essential. The next steps are to determine his possible alternatives and once he (the farmer) has chosen the direction he wants to proceed, to give him assistance in carrying out and further improvement of his best plan.

The Farm Management program is based on the above problems and principles.

## VI. POULTRY

The production of broilers and turkeys is at a rather low ebb in the county. Very few of the growers have made any money and there are a large number of houses not in use. The egg producers have had a better year and there is perhaps more interest in egg production.

There were practically no request for help from the broiler growers. One rather large producer of broiler hatchery eggs asked for help with feeding of his laying birds. With the help of Mr. Burtner, Extension Poultry Specialist, a control feeding demonstration was set up on his farm. After this had been in operation several months, request for similar help from another producer was received. The producer was well pleased with the results from the demonstration and he has all of his birds on this program at the present time. The other producer also has reported favorable results. This is the first year in recent years that no request have been received for plans for broiler houses. It is hoped that an adjustment in the freight rates on feed to the area will be made and that adjustments in the broiler industry will also come about so that broiler production will become as important as it has been to the economy of the county.

## VII. MISCELLANEOUS

The Agent helped with the educational activities with the feed grain program. One county meeting was held with the farmers with an attendance of 77 and two meetings with the community A.S.C. and one with the county A.S.C. committees. One circular letter was mailed to 800 farmers and 35 conferences were held with individual growers. To explain the 1962 wheat program, five community meetings were held and the agent met with the A.S.C. committees on several occasions. One hundred forty farmers signed up for the feed grain program and diverted 1,307 acres from corn. To date 368 farmers have signed up to participate in the wheat program and they plan to divert 2,485 acres. Forty-seven farmers plan to divert 332 acres of barley.

With the help of Extension Specialist, one meeting to explain the Federal Income Tax was held. The attendance was 14. We always receive a number of request for help on individual features of income tax returns and 150 copies of the Income Tax Guide bulletin was distributed. A limited number of request for information on Social Security and federal farm gas tax refund are received.

The Agent participated in a one day local Farm Show, a three day area Junior Farm Show in Lynchburg, and a one week Five County Fair in Farville.

and personal visits. Demonstrations on vaccinating, dehorning, and castrating were given when requested.

A county meeting of the beef cattle producers was held at which one of the Extension Beef Cattle Specialist from V.P.I., discussed production practices and another discussed marketing, buying, and pricing procedures. This meeting was attended by 74 producers and received many favorable comments.

A swine school was arranged for the hog and pig producers. The school was for two evenings and there were two speakers from the Land Grant College on the program each evening. The school was well attended and seemed to answer quite a number of questions and problems of swine producers present.

The farmers of the county sold 590 feeder calves through the organized sales and 113 yearling feeders in the organized yearling sales. There were not fat cattle sales available this year. Over 3,500 pounds of wool from this county was sold through the wool pools at very satisfactory prices. The feeder pig producers (45 in number) sold 1,276 pigs through the farmer organized sales this year. This compares with 24 consignors and 541 pigs for 1960. Selling through the organized sales, where all animals are graded and are paid for on a quality basis this justifies even more strongly the use of better breeding stock. The result has been that the farmers are taking more interest in the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association and are trying to buy sires with a record of performance behind them. They are also paying more attention to selecting females on the farm as well as those they buy. Our records show that our farmers are selling more animals in the higher grades each year.

In spite of more "know-how", medicines and vaccines, diseases are still one of the major costs of livestock production, especially with swine producers in the county. There is no Veterinarian in the county and veterinary cost are not only high but often unavailable when needed. To try and overcome this condition, two meetings were held at which time a Veterinarian talked on disease prevention with livestock. The agents gave numerous demonstrations on vaccinating for blackleg, cholera, erysipelas, and shipping fever. They also helped the farmers arrange for veterinarians to vaccinate their heifer calves for Bangs as well as for testing the breeding herds. They also cooperated with the State and Federal Veterinarian to get 20 percent of the cow herd tested for Bangs so the county could be recertified. Two contacts were made trying to get a Veterinarian to locate in the county but to date there has been no success with this project.

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The club members planted 153,000 pine seedlings or 18 percent of the trees planted by farmers. The farmers planted 840,000 pine seedlings and the wood using industries planted enough additional seedlings to make the total for the county 2,331,650 loblolly pines. The forestry club will be continued and it is expected that the percent of trees planted by farmers will increase materially each year.

#### V. LIVESTOCK

The latest census figures for Buckingham County show that in 1954, 993 farmers had 9,027 cattle while in 1959, 630 farmers had 9,170 cattle or a change from an average 9 per farm to 15 in a period of five years. Our surveys show that most of this change has been in beef cattle. The Census also shows that in 1954, 1,023 farmers had 6,580 hogs while in 1959, 660 farmers had 7,674 hogs or a 48 percent increase in hogs per farm in five years. Our surveys show that this increase for cattle and swine is continuing. The sheep numbers have not varied by as much as 10 percent in the past twenty years.

The concentration of more livestock on fewer farms was an effort to increase the income on these farms. This has resulted in a demand for better marketing methods to get the high dollar for their livestock, and an incentive for producing better livestock.

In the Plan of Work for 1961, the major projects selected were: improved marketing, better quality, and health of livestock.

#### Marketing - Work With Livestock Marketing Cooperatives

The Buckingham Agents met with the directors of organized cooperatives and county agents from other counties on 12 different occasions to help with annual meetings of the membership or to develop rules for operating. The sale of feeder pigs is new in the area and more help was required in developing health regulations and operating procedures for these sales. Last year due to failure of the State wool marketing organization, small county or area wool pools were organized. On the basis of last years results it was found that if more area wool pools were sold at the same time, more buying power could be interested. Meetings of the directors were called so this could be done.

On the county level producers were advised of the different sales, their regulations and what would have to be done to get their animals entered. This was done by radio, circular letters,

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supplied with plans for a tobacco barn which he followed in building after visiting similar barns with the Assistant Agent.

### III. DAIRYING

There has been no increase in the number of producers in A Grade Dairy but there has been an increase in the number of animals and production per cow. The interest in manufactured milk has increased. Two new producers have already started shipping. At the present time three more are planning to go into production and they have been given plans and economic information about the project. One of these men went with the Assistant Agent and the fieldman for the company to visit five different Grade B "set ups" in the surrounding counties.

### IV. FORESTRY

As over 75 percent of the land area in the county is in forest and over 50 percent of the gross income is derived from the sale and processing of forest products the improvement of the forest in the county is of a major importance.

To promote interest in forest improvement an Extension Forestry Club was organized a number of years ago and it was continued this year. The A.S.C. program makes very liberal payments for tree planting and forestry improvements, and the farmers of the county were advised of this fact at meetings, over the radio and through mass media. The larger buyers of forest products in the county also helped to supply farmers with pine seedlings on a match basis. We are fortunate in having individuals and groups who are well qualified to plant pine seedlings. The Forest Service will help the farmers in selecting sites and suggestions for preparations for same on request. The agent has made a point of getting this information to the farmers by radio talks, circular letters, individual contacts and at general meetings.

The 1961 Forestry Club was very successful in its program and the awards meeting was held in January. Mr. J. W. Garrett was the over-all winner and was declared Forestry King for 1960. In addition there were six winners in various categories such as open area planting, spot planting, releasing desirable reproduction, etc. These six winners received certificates for the excellency of their work and these certificates were presented at the meeting. It is felt that the publicity these winners received is not only an inspiration to them but creates a lot of interest among the other landowners in the county.

Ton Silage Club was not as successful as hoped primarily due to lack of time and organization on the part of the Agents to get the weights from the members. In the cases where the weights were secured better yields were obtained than for last year. A number of the members said that the club helped them by making them more conscious of the importance of more uniform stands, the correct varieties, and proper fertilization to secure maximum yield.

The farmers who treated their alfalfa for weevils according to recommendations last year all reported excellent results and as soon as they learned that the same treatment could be used for 1962 there was a renewed interest in alfalfa seedings so we feel confident that there will be a 10 to 20 percent increase in next years alfalfa production. Many of the farmers seeding alfalfa are taking soil tests and following the recommended practices. As a result of the winter meeting, on chemicals in weed control, requests were received for demonstrations. Mr. Allen Kates, Extension Weed Specialist from V.P.I., set up two demonstrations on corn using Atrazine and one on pasture with 2-4-D. As a result of the demonstrations, the winter meeting, and mass media used, it is estimated that 350 acres of corn were treated with chemicals to control weeds. Chemical weed control was increased in pasture and quite a number of farmers are using chemicals to control bushes along fence rows and creeks.

A few years ago Korean lespedeza produced more tons of hay than any crop in the county but in recent years has been a failure. The recommendation has been to seed more red clover and at present red clover is producing more hay than the Korean lespedeza. A number of farmers tried Kobe lespedeza this year and were better satisfied. To secure more economical storage and feeding facilities for hay five farmers built pole type barns according to the Extension Agricultural Engineers' plans.

In the early spring an article appeared in one of the magazines advising that there was good demand for the type of dark-fired tobacco grown in the county and area. To call the attention of the growers to this fact one radio program was used and it was mentioned at several of the county and community meetings. To help with a better marketing of tobacco, one burley grading demonstration was arranged in cooperation with an adjoining county; and three dark-fired demonstrations were held in the county. The Agent arranged the demonstrations which were conducted by representatives of the Federal tobacco grading service. These demonstrations were attended by 44 farmers. More tobacco farmers used soil test this year than ever before and more of them asked for help on identifying diseases and abnormal conditions of their tobacco. One tobacco grower was

as a major project. Some hay, corn, and small grain are sold, but tobacco is still the chief cash crop.

In developing the program, winter meetings were held to discuss better pastures and hay production but most emphasis was on silage. A 20 Ton Silage Club was organized with the idea of promoting yields. Two meetings were held with the Agricultural Engineer from V.P.I. to discuss the most economical methods of harvesting, storing, and feeding of silage. One winter meeting was held on the use of chemicals to control weeds in corn, pasture and other crops. In hay production the most emphasis was put on alfalfa, clover, and a number of farmers were encouraged to try Kobe lespedeza in place of Korean which has done so poorly in recent years. To keep the farmers informed on the control of the alfalfa weevil each grower was mailed a circular letter giving full details on when and how to treat for the weevil. They were also reminded weekly over the radio of the importance of timely treatments during the applicable period. A number of farmers were interested in the feed grain program but this program did not reduce the acreage intended for silage. To emphasize the importance of the best corn hybrid varieties six variety demonstrations were arranged with from 3 to 18 different varieties per demonstration.

To emphasize the importance of soil testing for crop production all types of mass media were used. The Assistant Agent secured the cooperation of three large farm supply stores to help with the soil testing program. In each place he put up a large sign telling the importance of soil testing and near the sign he had a supply of soil boxes with sheets to give a history of the field and directions on how to take a soil sample. Two soil sampling tubes were left at each of these displays.

Mimeograph sheets of the recommended varieties of crops for the county was mailed to the producers and supplied to the feed dealers in the county. A meeting with the seed and fertilizer dealers was also held to discuss the recommended varieties and fertilizers.

#### RESULT:

This is the third year that the 12 Month Feed program was selected as a major project and the results of this continued program are becoming evident. Two cement "tilt-up" silos were completed, 5 trench silos were dug, one bunker silo and one upright silo was built. A number of other silos were enlarged. The total tonnage in silage harvested is estimated to be 30% more than last year. There has also been a great improvement in the quality of silage as the farmers are planting varieties with a higher percentage of grain and paying more attention to the time of harvest and method of storage of silage. The 20

The telephone service is being developed rather rapidly with lines extending to 4 new areas during the past year. The Census shows 214 farm telephones compared with 163 five years ago and 91 ten years ago. Several farm phones have been added this year. The total phones in the county is over 700 at the present time.

Buckingham County is almost entirely rural. Dillwyn, the largest town has a population of 550. Buckingham Courthouse has a population of 200. There are four shopping areas within a radius of 45 to 60 miles of the center of the county.

#### B. General Information About the People and the Economy

Farm people constitute 60% of the total county population while non-farm people make up the remaining 40% of the county's 10,877 population. The migration toward out-of-the-county employment has resulted in a decrease of 1,411 population in the county within the last ten years. More students in the county are completing high school and going on to college, but the average number of school years completed is still too low. The 1950 Census showed the educational level of the people was 7.1 school years. This has improved over the past ten years, but the exact increase cannot be noted because we don't have the educational level figure for 1959. There has been a decrease in the number of people employed in agriculture and forestry over the past 10 years. However, employment within the county increased in manufacturing, construction, motels, filling stations, restaurants, and repair services.

Sources of industrial employment to Buckingham County:

##### Within the County

3 slate quarries  
Southern Lightweight Aggregate Corp.  
Blue Ridge Stone Corp.  
Kynite Mining Corporation  
C & O Railroad  
Sawmills and Planner Mills  
Buffalo Wood Products

##### In Adjoining Counties

Craddock Terry Shoe Factory  
U. S. Rubber Company  
Virginia Electric & Power Company  
2 Garment Factories

#### II. AGRONOMY

The importance of livestock as a source of income in Buckingham County is increasing each year as will be shown under livestock. For this reason it was decided to continue a 12 Month Feed program with emphasis on economical production and handling of feed and roughage

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BUCKINGHAM COUNTY

### A. General Characteristics of the County

Buckingham County is located in approximately the geographical center of the State and is in the piedmont area south of the James River. Buckingham has twice lost land areas since it was first formed in 1761 from Albemarle County. The first loss was in 1778 when Cumberland County was formed and the second loss came when Appomattox County was formed in 1845. The county now contains 582.0 square miles. It is bordered on the east by Fluvanna and Cumberland Counties, with Prince Edward and Appomattox Counties to the south and west. To the north across the James River are the counties of Nelson, Albemarle and Fluvanna. The James River forms the northern boundaries of the county for approximately 55.0 miles.

The topography in general is rolling and well suited to agriculture. The average elevation is 400 - 700 feet above sea level with the highest peak being Spear's mountain that reaches a height of 1500 feet above sea level. The county has a temperate climate with usually ample precipitation well distributed throughout the year. The average annual rainfall totals 51 inches distributed throughout the year. The average annual rainfall totals 51 inches and the average frost free growing season is 195 days per year. The principal soil types found in the county are Tatum, Nason, Cecil, Lloyd, and Iredell.

There have been several major changes in the agriculture status of the county in the past few years. The reduction in the number of farms, but the increasing size of the individual farm has steadily taken place. The 1959 Census figures show a loss of 432 farms from the 1954 Census. However, 130 of these farms were lost due to the change in the definition of a farm. The average size of farms have increased from 140.0 acres to 169.0 acres over the past five years. The cropland decreased 12,000.0 acres to a new low of 24,759.0 acres. A decrease of over 7,000.0 acres of pasture was also noted. Some of this change was due to acreage in the soil bank. There is still a trend to fewer but larger farm operations.

The highway system is adequate at this stage of the county's development. There are approximately 100 miles of primary roads and 100 miles of paved secondary roads forming transportation facilities. U. S. Highway 60 passes east and west through the county and intersects with U. S. Highway 15 passing north and south through the county at Sprouses Corner. All other county roads tie into these two highways. Over 85% of the families own motor vehicles. Rail facilities are adequate.

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# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

R. S. ELLIS

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COUNTY AGENT

**Agent**

**Title**

JAMES A. NOLEN

**Assistant Agent**

CHAPMAN L. HUFFMAN

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**



1961

**BUCKINGHAM  
County**