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72

# Annual Report

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service



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agent

1955

assistant agent

Albemarle

county

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

DECEMBER 1, 1954 - NOVEMBER 30, 1955

J. R. BUTLER

LOCAL FARM DEMONSTRATION AGENT

Table of Contents

	<u>Pages</u>
Foreword -----	1
County Advisory Board -----	2
Community clubs -----	2
Type of Fairs -----	3
Corn Demonstration -----	3
Pasture Demonstrations -----	4
Wheat Demonstrations -----	4
Hay Demonstrations -----	4-5
Beef Cattle Demonstration -----	5
Poultry demonstrations -----	5
Garden Demonstration -----	5-6
Demonstration Community -----	6
Cooperation with Federal Agencies -----	6-7
G-H Clubs -----	7
Community Center -----	7-8
Conclusion -----	8

72

Foreword

This report is made so that interested persons in the Extension Service, County, State and Federal Government and people with whom work may get a picture of extension work done in Albemarle county during the year 1955.

In Albemarle county there are 211 negro farm operators, according to last statistics. There is a larger number of non farm people. The number of farm operators have not changed in the last four years.

The Extension Service works with the County Advisory Board, Community Clubs, seven 4-H Clubs, a 4-H Council, A community center and a number of communities in carrying out the extension program in the county.

This report will show work done in the following areas:

- (a) year round gardens for all rural people, (b) erosion control,
  - (c) use of lime and fertilizer on pastures and crops, (d) improvement of poultry on home farms, (e) livestock improvement, and home improvement.
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County Advisory Board

The County Advisory Board the supporting body for extension work in the county held two meetings during the year. The first meeting was a meeting where a review of the preceeding years work was done and plans for the present year carried out.

The second meeting was held to review the plan of work and select committees for the varous projects of the year. Plans for the county tours and field days were made at this meeting.

Community Clubs

In the community clubs there were more than 100 meetings held by the agent and leaders during the year. At these meetings the plan of work was discussed, demonstrations done, and training meetings held for the purpose of helping people learn better methods of producing food and improving the standard of living.

More than six hundred persons attended these meetings and activities.

Some of the objectives desired in all of these activities carried out were to help farm people with production and marketing of farm crops and, livestock, poultry and forest products. We also desired to improve soil and water conservation on these farms, improve homes, and install running water in homes and barn buildings.

Type of Farming

In Albemarle county a diversified system of farming is done on most farms. The crops grown are small grain, corn for grain and silage, grasses and legumes for pasture and hay. There is a few soybeans grown .

Most farms have a combination of beef and hogs, beef and sheep, or beef and poultry. There are some peach and apple orchards in the county. There are also dairy farms. We do not have any orchards or dairy farms with Negroes as operators.

Albemarle county is a livestock producing county and much stress is being put on improved grass land farming through proper fertilization and improved grasses and legumes. Farmers are encouraged to develop a year round grazing system. Our farmers have not done much on winter pastures.

Corn Demonstrations

This year we had two good corn demonstrations. The objectives of these corn demonstrations were to teach farmers the importance of selecting good corn land and correct use of fertilizer. We selected land that might produce well in dry weather. The demonstrators used shallow cultivation and 100 lbs of 10-10-10 fertilizer worked in to the soil before seeding. These demonstrations were in fields of corn where the demonstrator used his usual practice on the rest of the field. The results showed almost double in yield over the rest of the field. The demonstrations were observed by more than 50 farmers during the process of growth.

### Pasture Demonstrations

There were three pasture demonstrations in our program this year. One of these demonstrations is under the Plant Food Institute program. One was started last year and the other this year. The purpose for these demonstrations is to teach the farmer the proper fertilization and management of the pasture. This year the pastures were good most of the year. On the pasture both the farmers received about three times the grazing days on the demonstration plots per acre as to the grazing per acre of the rest of the pasture.

The demonstrations were observed by more than 50 farmers during the year, and have done much to interest other farmers in better pastures.

### Wheat Demonstrations

Wheat demonstrations were carried on by two farmers in the Alvase Hills community. All of the demonstrators used 400 lbs of 4-16-8 Fertilizer on the wheat when planting and top-dress in late winter with 200 lbs of nitrate soda in late winter. Each demonstration was fitted in to the three year rotation which is practiced by the farmers in this section. These demonstrations were 35 and 36 bu per acre in yield and was observed by about 25 farmers during the growing period.

### Hay Demonstration

Hay demonstration were carried out on three farms. Each mixture was a orchard grass and red clover mixture.

These demonstrations were fertilized with 300 lbs of 2-12-12 fertilizer during early spring. The yield on each plot was 2 and one half tons per acre and three cuttings.

These demonstrations did much to encourage farmers to fertilize their hay crop. It has been a practice for most farmers in this section to fertilize corn and wheat or small grain and let the hay go for it self.

#### Beef Cattle Demonstration

Beef cattle is one of the main sources of income in this county. We tried to show the farmers how to increase quality of beef by selecting good heifers and the use of good purebred bulls and good management. The two cattle raising demonstrations in the county have done much improve the quality of cattle in the county. Four farmers have purchased purebred bulls this year.

#### Poultry Demonstrations

The three poultry demonstrations carried on this year included more than 1000 pullets and layers. The purpose of the demonstrations was to teach proper feeding, housing and management, of the farm flock.

These demonstrations were observed by more than fifty persons during the year. We hope that these demonstrations will encourage farm families to carry large enough flocks and to the family income.

#### Garden Demonstration

This year we had four garden demonstrations for the

Year. The purpose for the garden demonstrations were to encourage rural people to produce enough food for their use the year round. We tried to teach the proper foods to grow in the garden to help give a balance diet in vegetables for the family.

We also tried to teach proper fertilizer use and soil conservation practices in the garden.

More than 250 persons observed these demonstrations this year.

#### Demonstration Community

The Esmont Community is the Live At Home and demonstration community for the county

This community has an organized community club that has had 14 meetings this year. At these meetings lectures, demonstrations, and movies are shown for the purpose of teaching activities carried on in the community.

For the last two years this community has accomplished such work with painting homes in the community, installing running water in homes, and producing food for family use. This year five homes were painted, two homes installed running water, three homes screened in porches, and one home was purchased.

Last month a garden club was organized for the purpose of working on home beautification and home grounds improvement.

#### Cooperation with Federal Agencies

The Federal agencies cooperating with extension service

For the purpose of improvement in farm peoples living standards the agencies are the ASC, Farmers Home Administration, The Thomas Jefferson District Soil Conservation service, and the Forest service. The farmers are being informed of the program of these services, and how they may fit them into their program.

About 175 acres of pasture have been sown or improved with help from the ASC program. More farmers are interested in tree planting as result from the Forest Service and ASC programs.

#### 4 - H Clubs

We have 7 4-H Clubs in Albemarle County with 142 boys and 135 girls. There were 207 project completions for this year. The projects engaged in by club members were bagy beef, corn, poultry, garden, Fat Pig and home butification. One 4-H club member attended the State Short Course, three members attended the State Wildlife Conference, and 25 took part in a club picnic last spring. About 30 club members exhibit intres in the Esmont community exhibit.

#### Community Center

The extension service work with a community center which serves the Cismont, Cobham, Keswick and Linsay communities

The activities carried on at the center are; (a) a baby health clinic, that is led by the county health nurse, (b) meetings for a Girl Scout group are held weekly, (c) meetings for Boy Scout troops are held weekly, (d) church activities such as suppers etc are held at the center, (e) meetings and games of the base ball club are held at the center.

The center is headed by five persons as trustees and organized group with officers the same as any other organized group might have.

Conclusion

This year has been a much more profitable year for farmers than the last two. The extension program is improving. I think the people are receiving greater benefit from the extension service. More people have made request for assistance in their farm problems this year than any year since this agent has worked in the county.

To make the extension program more effective this agent can do a much better job of selling extension to the people. There is a need for many items of equipment for this office which would make the work of the agent 100% more efficient.

Full time secretarial help add to the efficiency of the office and would allow for much more work out in the county with the farmer and the farm family.