

1. 1961 Feed Grain Program
2. 1962 Wheat Stabilization Program
3. A. C. F.

10. Out-of-county meetings requiring the attendance of this County Agent occurred on the following dates with programs discussed:

December 6, 1960 - Feeder Pig Production Discussion.
December 8, 1960 - 4-H Camp Farrar Board of Directors.
December 12, 1960 - D.H.I.A. Board of Directors Meeting.
December 15, 1960 - District meeting Extension Workers.
December 16, 1960 - District meeting Extension Workers.
January 9, 1961 - Wool Marketing meeting.
January 20, 1961 - 4-H Tractor Program.
January 31, 1961 - Experimental Tobacco Variety Plans.
February 28, 1961 - Feeder Calf Association Meeting.
March 13, 1961 - Virginia Federation of D. H. I. A.'s.
March 21, 1961 - Office Equipment.
March 24, 1961 - Cotton Promotional meeting.
April 6, 1961 - Feed Grain Program.
April 27, 1961 - 4-H Livestock Show.
April 28, 1961 - 4-H Livestock Show and Sale.
April 29, 1961 - District 4-H Contests.
May 5, 1961 - Cotton Promotional meeting.
May 11, 1961 - Wool Marketing.
May 29, 1961 - 1961 Wool Clip Delivery.
June 7, 1961 - State Emergency Planning meeting.
August 4, 1961 - Forestry Tour.
August 21, 1961 - Annual Extension Staff Conference.
August 22, 1961 - Annual Extension Staff Conference.
August 23, 1961 - Annual Extension Staff Conference.
August 24, 1961 - Annual Extension Staff Conference.
August 25, 1961 - Annual Extension Staff Conference.
August 30, 1961 - 1962 Wheat and Barley Programs.
September 21, 1961 - Selection of 4-H Club Steers.
September 28, 1961 - D. H. I. A. matters.
October 11, 1961 - Annual Feeder Calf Sale.
October 25, 1961 - 4-H Leader Training meeting.
October 27, 1961 - D. H.I. A. Conference for Supervisors.
October 31, 1961 - Aromatic Tobacco Marketing.
November 1, 1961 - Flue-Cured Tobacco Evaluation Project.
November 10, 1961 - Silage Evaluation School.

Closely related to this phase of work was assistance given in establishing a permanent sod on a twenty-seven (27) acre tract of land to be used exclusively as a Memorial Park. This Agent's office was requested to assist with this particular project from a number of standpoints. Information and on-the-site recommendations were made on land preparation, lime, fertilizer and seed mixture requirements. Owners of this Park are quite pleased with progress to date as the existing sod will now testify.

V. Miscellaneous.

There are numerous noteworthy activities not mentioned previously in this report which required this writer's time and attention. Those activities are outlined below:

1. Revamped the South Central Fair Premium List with help of County Professional Workers and certain key leaders.
2. Helped conduct a winter series of farmer meetings at which time the following topics were discussed:
 - (1) Electronic Farm Record Program
 - (2) Chemical Weed Control in Corn.
 - (3) Tobacco performance data of Virginia and North Carolina.
 - (4) Soil Samples and Fertilizer recommendations.
 - (5) Aromatic Tobacco Production.
3. Assisted in taking applications for 229,000 pine seedlings.
4. Helped plan for and conduct a meeting on irrigation to which had been invited dealers, farmers and professional workers. Forty-eight (48) persons attended.
5. Helped plan for and conduct the First Annual 4-H Livestock Show.
6. Helped Plan for and Conduct 4-H Tractor Operators Contest, held in conjunction with the Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting which attracted 3,500 persons.
7. Four (4) field meetings were held at some of the county's complete Corn fertility demonstrations with good attendance.
8. Assisted in planning and conducting a tobacco field meeting which attracted approximately eighty-five (85) farmers and professional workers.
9. Have attended and assisted with program of at least twenty (20) meetings held by the County SCS Office. In addition to above was responsible for conducting at least eighteen (18) meetings at which time the following topics were discussed:

County presented thirty-four (34) acts. The contest winners were, in the Junior Division, George Whitley, Phil Clark and Bill McBride. They received one-half of their expenses to attend 4-H Camp Farrar from the County 4-H Fund. Frances Edgerton won the Senior Division and a trip to State Short Course which she did not attend.

IV Minor Project Activities.

(a) Wool Pool and Sheep Work.

1. Results.

For the third consecutive year, Mecklenburg wool producers numbering thirty-seven (37) strong have sold their wool cooperatively, but privately to the highest bidder on a sealed bid basis. A wool buying firm, Nichols and Company of Boston, Mass., purchased this year's crop for .5903c per pound on a clear-tied basis. The county's total wool crop amounted to 6,463 lbs. Of this amount 6,159 or ninety-five percent (95%) was graded and sold as clear-tied wool. The remaining five percent (5%) went in lower grades such as rejects, lambs and tags. Mecklenburg producers grossed \$3,754.12 for the over-all poundage stated above.

Seven hundred (700) sheep were shorn commercially in the county this year, representing an all time high. Sixty-four percent (64%) or twenty-four (24) growers availed themselves of the services of a professional shearer. It appears almost a certainty in the years ahead, that all sheeps in the county will be shorn commercially.

State graded lamb sales remain the principle marketing outlet for almost all of the county producers. Some producers sell through other means but all report satisfactory marketing conditions.

(b) Turfgrass Establishment.

1. Results.

Much interest has developed in the past year in turfgrass establishment which required time and attention of this Agent. In one of the several towns of the county three (3) home owners were given assistance in this activity. Sources of grass or sprigs were determined and those individuals interested were notified. Assistance was given on arrival of sprigs as to how best to establish them, prepare land, etc. It is anticipated that this phase of work will require still more of the agent's time in the immediate future.

Henry Lee Cundiff won the Showmanship Contest.

Three (3) club members entered their Hereford steers in the six (6) months old or less class. Buddy Farrar won first place with Wylie Farrar second and Billy Clark third. Mecklenburg 4-H'ers took three (3) of the four (4) placings.

Teddy Brame with the Yorkshire gilt, won Grand Champion female in the open and Junior Division in the Swine Show. A total of two (2) boys entered the Swine section, marking the first time for 4-H'ers entering this division for several years.

SEARS FIG CHAIN

All Club members of the Sears Chain in 1960-61 paid their obligations. The chain is being carried on successfully with five (5) gilts being fed for breeding purposes. Teddy Brame, a Sears Chain member for 1961-62, entered his gilt in the South Central Fair and won Grand Champion female of the Show.

Harrison Inge was judged as the outstanding Sears Pig Chain member for 1960-61. Tinker Ashworth won second place honors.

BEECHWOOD LIVESTOCK CLUB

Membership in this Community 4-H Club has increased sixteen percent (16%) over last year. Club members have attended three (3) out-of-county tours held in Northern, Virginia, on leading Beef Cattle Farms.

This Club sponsored and held the first Mecklenburg County Fat Steer Show. Eleven (11) club members participated. In the morning a Fitting Demonstration and a Showmanship Demonstration was given. That afternoon the Show was held. This Show attracted more than five hundred (500) interested people who attended either the morning demonstrations or the Show in the afternoon.

4-H ELECTRIC CONGRESS

Mecklenburg County 4-H'ers did not participate in the Electric Congress this past year.

4-H SHARE THE FUN CONTEST

On April 26, 1961, fifty-seven (57) 4-H'ers from Mecklenburg

4-H SUMMER CAMP

4-H Summer Camp was the usual recreational highlight. Mecklenburg 4-H'ers attended Junior and Senior Camps at Camp Farrar and Holiday Lake. Quotas for boys and girls was about filled.

All Star weekend was attended by five (5) Mecklenburg County All Stars and their parents at Holiday Lake.

Mildred Callahan and Louise Harper attended Inter-State Conference at Chevy Chase, Maryland.

DISTRICT CONTESTS

Mecklenburg County increased the number of participants in District Contests by six (6) members and two (2) additional events. A Livestock Judging team entered the District Contest for the first time and placed second in competition.

Two (2) blue ribbons were won by Mecklenburg 4-H'ers. Betty Lou Kinker in her Dairy Foods Demonstration and Mike Welker in Public Speaking.

STATE 4-H SHORT COURSE

The State 4-H Short Course was attended by five (5) girls and three (3) boys enrolled in 4-H Club work and one (1) Extension Agent. Mecklenburg County had four (4) candidates for All Star recognition with each of the four (4) being tapped as an All Star. They are as follows: Mildred Callahan, Louise Harper, Ben Brown and Sammy Land. Four (4) 4-H'ers entered two (2) State Contests - Livestock Judging and Dairy Foods Demonstration.

SOUTH CENTRAL FAIR

The county's two (2) 4-H Educational booths took a third place in competition with five (5) booths from three (3) other counties.

In the "still" exhibit division, forty one (41) club members entered exhibits.

Three (3) club members entered the Junior Dairy Show. Wylie Farrar placed third in the Holstein Heifer Class. Tommy Cage and Henry Lee Cundiff placed first and second in the aged Guernsey Class.

The sponsors of these eleven (11) calves paid an average of sixteen (16) cents per pound above market price. This establishes the fact that without sponsors Mecklenburg County boys and girls would have broken even on their steer projects instead of making a fine profit.

With the high prices being paid for high grading calves, a more efficient feeding program is being followed for the coming year. By becoming more efficient, less dependence upon sponsorship will be required to show a profit.

COUNTY-WIDE PROJECT

Wildlife Unit I was the county-wide project carried by the seventeen (17) Junior 4-H Clubs. A total of five hundred twenty (520) Club members participated in this project. Wildlife was the theme at each junior in-school club. Various topics discussed by Extension Agents were as follows:

1. External parts of a bird and the economic value of birds in Virginia.
2. Construction of bird feeders and houses.
3. Winter feed for birds.
4. Common enemies.
5. Contest for Club members on discussed topics.

Bird identification was used in each meeting. Four (4) different slides of common birds of Mecklenburg County were discussed at each meeting.

The local Game Wardens presented a program of game animals found in Southside Virginia.

This county-wide project was very successful because of the interest shown by club members and a record number of project completions.

HONOR CLUB

The year, 1961, marked the organizing of a County Honor Club. Sixteen (16) members were tapped into the Honor Club in July. This group adopted the project of publishing a 4-H Journal, "The Mecklenburg County 4-H Review." This paper sponsored by the Honor Club had twenty-four (24) 4-H Club members writing articles for the paper.

- c. To promote club publicity by having the reporter of each Club submit a news article to the county paper.
 - d. The constant exchange of ideas and program procedures with other leaders of youth organizations has maintained pleasant working relationships.
 - e. To arrange only those programs with a definite advantage and benefit for the Club Member.
4. Results.

The results will be reported below and under the appropriate heading.

ANNUAL FAT STOCK SHOW AND SALE

Mecklenburg County again produced the Grand Champion steer of the Petersburg Show and Sale. Sam Land, Jr., was the owner of the Champion. Sam Land, Jr., also won the Showmanship and Fitting Contest with his steer.

Eleven (11) Mecklenburg County 4-H boys and girls were in competition with twenty-two (22) other boys and girls from eight (8) other counties. The eleven (11) steers shown in Petersburg had an average of three (3) sponsors or more. The interest and backing of the feeder steer project from sponsors is due to the work of adult leaders in the Beechwood Livestock Club.

In a complete summary of records submitted by 4-H Club members competing in the Petersburg Show and Sale, the following results were compiled by this Extension Office:

Average weight when bought.	486 lbs.
Cost of calf when bought per pound	28 3/4 c
Average cost of calf.	\$138.53
Average Feed Cost	\$ 73.49
Miscellaneous cost.	\$ 7.17
Average gain per day.	2 lbs.
Average gain per calf for six (6) months.	363 lbs.
Average weight at sale time	838 lbs.
Total cost to gain 363 lbs.	22c per lb.
Average cost of calf at sale time	\$219.19
Average selling price per pound42c
Average selling price	\$352.89
Average labor income.	\$133.70
Average cost of calf per pound at sale time26c

Nine (9) enrollees are still active while three (3) found it necessary to drop-out in the early stages of the program. The drop-outs, however, will be back in the program beginning in January 1962.

F. 4-H Club and Older Youth Work.

1. Situation.

The Mecklenburg County 4-H Program is organized and governed by the over-all State Plan. The County 4-H Council with adult leaders govern the County 4-H Program with the aid of the local Extension Staff.

The problem of obtaining adult leaders still remains, but not as great as in the past. With a definite need for Community Clubs because of 4-H work being taken out of public schools, parents and county people are taking an increased interest in 4-H Club work. As of this time there are four (4) Community 4-H Clubs organized and carrying on effective programs. There were twenty-four (24) individual 4-H Clubs in the county. Twenty (20) of these clubs are in the six (6) county Elementary Schools and the two (2) County high schools.

2. Objectives.

- a. The long time objective in 4-H work is to foster, maintain and encourage the youth in the county to work together in carrying out the Club's Motto, "To Make The Best Better."
- b. To maintain the present, pleasant relationship which exists between competitive youth organizations.
- c. To encourage more Club members to participate in District 4-H Contests.
- d. To stimulate in Club members the desire to be more active in club work through participation in Community Clubs.

3. Methods.

- a. In the opening or closing of each Club meeting, every Club member is reminded of the 4-H Club motto and 4-H Pledge.
- b. Exhibits in the South Central Fair, publication of County 4-H Paper and other events participated in by 4-H members, served as a means to publicize the many advantages to be had by all young people through participation in 4-H Club work.

Four (4) field meetings were held during the growing season with approximately thirty (30) farmers present at each. Cooperators reported a total of six hundred ninety (690) farmers saw the tests at various stages.

Interest and requests justifies the enlargement of these tests to include additional communities in 1962.

E. Electronic Farm Record Program.

(a) Mail-In Records.

1. Situation.

One (1) county farmer was enrolled in the Electronic Farm Record Program in 1960. At the beginning of 1961, twelve (12) farmers were enrolled. Of this number four (4) were tobacco farms; three (3) were dairy; three (3) general and two (2) beef.

2. Objectives.

To provide the electronic farm record participant with a business analysis of his farming operation, which provides a basis for comparing his respective farm operation with the situation on similar type farms of the same area.

3. Methods.

Enrollment of county farmers in this program resulted directly from a discussion of this topic by this Agent at a series of meetings held in January. Almost without exception, a farmer would visit the County Agent's Office the following morning after a night meeting when this program was discussed and express interest in enrollment. Forms used in the program were supplied the farmer at this time. They were also informed that the responsibility of getting the forms completed and in on time, rest primarily with the individual.

4. Results.

No definite results can yet be stated, because of the remaining month before yearly farming operations are closed out.

3. Methods

The Agronomy Committee helped select eight (8) farmers who agreed to serve as cooperators in this program. Fertilizer and chemical supply concerns furnished materials for the plots. Cooperators selected adapted hybrids for use in the test plots and in almost all instances used the same hybrid in the check plots. Complete soil tests were made on all test plots, and fertilizer and lime recommendations made by the V. P. I. Agronomy Department. The V. P. I. Extension Weed Specialist assisted in the chemical weed control phase of the program.

Cooperators attempted to secure a stand of at least 14,000 stalks per acre.

4. Results.

Eight (8) one (1) acre plots and eight (8) one (1) acre check plots were established. Results included only seven (7) plots, however. One (1) test plot was discarded due to circumstances beyond the control of the cooperator.

Detailed results of seven (7) complete test and check plots are shown below:

<u>Test Plots (7)</u>	<u>Check Plots (7)</u>
(A) Received 38 lbs. N. Av. Received 83 lbs. P. Av. Received 104 lbs. K. Av.	(A) Received 23 lbs. N. Av. Received 47 lbs. P. Av. Received 38 lbs. K. Av.
The above all broadcast prior to planting	The above applied for the most part in row.
76 lbs. additional N. applied as side dressing	37 lbs. additional N. applied as a side dressing.
(B) Weed control with chemical applied over-all.	(B) No chemical weed control
(C) Cultivations - 1	(C) Cultivations - 3 Av.
(D) Stalks per acre 11,450	(D) Stalks per acre 8,500
(E) Final yield per acre 60.9 bus.	(E) Yield field per acre 46.8 bus.
(F) Irrigation - None	(F) Irrigation - None

4. Results.

For the first time in a number of years, the Annual D. H. I. A. Membership Meeting was held in the form of a luncheon. Attendance was poor. This year's meeting will be a supper meeting as has been the case for a number of years prior to the last. It is anticipated that attendance will improve.

Nine (9) county dairymen are enrolled in the D. H. I. A. No additional dairymen were enrolled, due to the compulsory ruling that to do so would mean enrolling in E. D. P. M., the Electronic Dairy Processing Machine Program. While eventually all dairymen will be on E. D. P. M., many are reluctant to make the change now.

Records of some of the county's D. H. I. A. herd members show that production of milk and butterfat is up from last year. Some, however, remain status-quo.

D. Corn Production.

(a) Corn For Grain Production.

1. Situation.

Mecklenburg County Corn Producers have experienced rather low corn yields in recent years for many reasons. To mention a few, low fertility, insufficient stand, weeds and not following specific, proven practices.

The average corn yield on a per acre basis in recent years has not exceeded thirty-five (35) bushels. In fact, the average yield established for the 1961 Feed Grain Program placed corn at 32.3 bushels per acre.

2. Objectives.

- a. To establish eight (8) one (1) acre test and eight (8) one (1) acre check plots to compare corn yields.
- b. To show that corn yields could be boosted by at least thirty percent (30%) when certain specific, proven practices are employed as compared where the usual "farmer method" is employed.

C. Dairy Work

(a) D. H. I. A. Program.

1. Situation.

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the county's Grade A dairymen are enrolled in the Southside Dairy Herd Improvement Association. An additional fifteen (15) to twenty (20) herds are needed to justify the county having its own D. H. I. A. Supervisor. Presently, this county is affiliated with two (2) adjoining counties to constitute one (1) full-time Association which employs a full-time Supervisor. Three (3) County Dairymen are enrolled in the E. D. P. M. Program.

Dairymen enrolled in the program are more nearly able to feed according to production records, than are those not having their herds on official test. It is true that some non-D. H. I. A. members are feeding adequately, but in many instances not according to production because of the lack of records.

2. Objectives.

- a. To get non-D. H. I. A. members interested in the program through meetings and tours.
- b. Furnish monthly fact sheets to dairymen to aid them in their over-all dairy program.
- c. Enroll additional dairymen in D. H. I. A. Program.
- d. Hold a dairy school and invite all dairymen to attend.
- e. Publicize high producing herds in weekly newspapers.

3. Methods.

Through the cooperation of the V. F. I. Dairy Department, this Agent's office prepared and mailed monthly to all dairymen, informational material helpful to them in their dairy activities.

A Dairy School had to be postponed due to a heavy snowfall. When held at a later date, attendance was only fair. Those present, however, expressed much interest and stated that much was learned.

The County Livestock Committee did much to encourage quality in herd sires. A tour of several good livestock "set ups" in the county created considerable interest.

Those farms enrolled in the Beef Cattle Improvement Program serve as excellent demonstrations and on several occasions have attracted other interested farmers.

4. Results.

Producers were most cooperative in furnishing the County Agent's Office with the exact number of calves placed in the various grades. With this information, this Agent was able to completely summarize the sale on a grade basis. This summary, among other things, gave the complete percentage by grades for each individual producer. Each producer's farm was coded, however, each was informed in the letter of transmittal as to the identity of his respective farm. In this manner each producer was able to compare his grade status with those of other county producers.

The goal of having at least fifty percent (50%) of the county's feeder calves in the choice and fancy grades was not met. The final results, however, as shown below, will reveal the percentage in the higher grades as fairly significant.

One hundred forty-one (141) calves consigned by a total of seven (7) producers placed percentage wise in the following grades:

Fancy (AA)	4.3%
Choice (A)	38.3%
Good (G)	41.1%
Medium (M)	11.3%
*Rejects	<u>4.9%</u>
Total	99.9%

*All rejects resulted as not having met weight requirements or as a result of a small defect, such as crooked tail, etc.

The goal of having fifty percent (50%) in the two (2) top grades was short by only 7.4%.

One (1) farmer was enrolled in the B. C. I. A. Program during the year.

Five (5) producers were assisted in selection of herd sires.

3. Methods.

- a. A discussion and lecture was held in fourteen (14) different communities in the county during January.
- b. Mass media used in the county included radio, bulletins and mailing informative type letters.

Results.

- a. The ten (10) farmers producing Aromatic tobacco sold 2,580 lbs. for a value of \$1663.40, at an average of \$64.47 per hundred weight.

B. Livestock Work.

(a) Feeder Calf Marketing.

1. Situation.

In past years too few of the county's feeder calves have been placed in the higher grade at organized sales due to, among other things, poor quality. Herd sires are in most instances not of the quality to assure superior calves of top grade. Improvement is gradual, however, as will be pointed out in the results below.

2. Objectives.

- a. Encourage producers to strive for quality in selecting and purchasing herd sires.
- b. Compile a summary by grade of all county feeder calves graded and sold in the organized feeder calf sales.
- c. Work toward getting at least fifty percent (50%) of all calves consigned to feeder sales in the choice and fancy grades.
- d. Enroll two (2) producers in the B. C. I. A. Program.

3. Methods.

Immediately after the completion of the Fall Feeder Sale, each producer was requested to furnish the number of calves placed in the various grades by representatives of the Division of Markets. Producers responded one hundred percent (100%) to this request. This agent was then able to make a complete grade summary and furnish each producer a copy.

- d. News letters were mailed to all tobacco growers every two (2) or three (3) months. These letters were seasonal.
- e. At the fourteen (14) tobacco production meetings held in different locations in the county, approximately 350 farmers were in attendance.
- f. Two (2) tobacco farmers completed farm records in the Electric Farm Record Program.
- g. A fertilizer placement demonstration was held in the Baskerville section. This was a three (3) acre plot of tobacco with two (2) placements of fertilizer. On one and one-half acres, one-half of the fertilizer was placed approximately fourteen (14) to sixteen (16) inches deep and the other half at seven (7) to eight (8) inches. On the other one and one-half acres, the fertilizer was placed the conventional way. The results were the same on both types of placement.
- h. Four (4) plant bed weed control demonstrations were held in different sections of the county and forty (40) farmers attended the demonstrations.
- i. At the county-wide tobacco irrigation meeting, forty-eight (48) farmers attended.

(b) Aromatic Tobacco.

1. Situation.

Mecklenburg's Aromatic tobacco situation at the beginning of the year was as follows:

- a. Seven (7) acres of Aromatic tobacco was planted and harvested.
 - b. Weather conditions for Mecklenburg were not favorable for the production of this type of tobacco. The quality was very poor.
2. Objectives.
- a. Growers need to learn if they are going to grow this type of tobacco, it should be in a business way.
 - b. Growers need to learn they will receive more net income if this crop is grown by recommended practices.
 - c. Growers need to use proper barns and curing units.

- c. Tobacco growers' greatest need is help in learning to be more efficient and economical in producing tobacco.

3. Methods.

- a. Discussions and lectures were conducted by the County Agent and Assistant in fourteen (14) different sections of the County. The main topics discussed at these meetings were varieties, fertilization, high quality tobacco and fescue rotation.
- b. Two (2) farmers were enrolled in the electric farm record keeping program.
- c. Two (2) varietal demonstrations were held.
- d. Mass media used in the county were radio, news articles, leaflets and bulletins distributed through mailing list, farm supply stores and country stores.
- e. Personal farm visits were conducted.
- f. Demonstrations were conducted on fertilization.
- g. Plant bed weed control demonstrations were held.
- h. A county-wide irrigation meeting was held.

4. Results.

- a. County-wide tobacco varietal result demonstrations were held at two (2) locations. At a blackshank infested farm near South Hill, over fifty (50) farmers attended the varietal result demonstration. One hundred (100) different farmers observed this demonstration during the year. At a varietal demonstration in the Red Oak section, where twenty-five (25) varieties were planted, ninety-five (95) farmers attended the meeting. Over seventy-five (75) different farmers observed the plot during the growing season.
- b. A variety demonstration was planted on a blackshank farm near Clarksville and over one hundred (100) farmers observed this plot during the year.
- c. A three acre "company evaluation" plot with six (6) varieties was planted in the Baskerville Community. Company men took samples for evaluation of this tobacco on November 2, 1961. Results will not be available to farmers this year.

III Major Project Activities.

A. Tobacco Work.

(a) Flue-Cured Tobacco.

1. Situation.

Mecklenburg's tobacco situation at the beginning of the year was as follows:

- a. 10,589.95 acres of flue-cured tobacco was allotted to 2,601 farms.
- b. Approximately eighty percent (80%) of the county's income is derived directly from the sale of flue-cured tobacco.
- c. There are approximately one hundred and twenty-five (125) irrigation systems, irrigating around 2,200 acres of tobacco.
- d. Tobacco is grown mostly on good Appling, Durham and Cecil soils, however, some farmers have to produce their tobacco on less desirable soils such as Herndon, Georgeville, Wilkes and Worsham. Tobacco farmers are sending in more soil samples each year for fertilizer recommendations.
- e. Weather conditions for Mecklenburg County were not ideal for the production of flue-cured tobacco in 1961. The tobacco weighed out about 200 lbs. less per acre than in 1960.

2. Objectives.

- a. The agent held a meeting of the Tobacco Committee and set up objectives for the year. The main objectives set forth by the committee were better varieties, control of disease, higher quality, better fertilization practices and plant bed management. Also, the committee emphasized better cultural practices such as topping, suckering, spacing and wiser use of irrigation.
- b. Growers need to realize that if they are going to compete with foreign markets, they must produce good quality tobacco.

I Brief Description of County Organization.

Five (5) commodity or special interest committees plans and carries out the over-all county agricultural program. Many of the committeemen are farmers, some, however, are businessmen and representatives of the Agricultural Agencies in the County. All committees meet at least twice a year to plan the phase of the county program which is to receive emphasis during the next year.

The largest over-all committee is on Tobacco Work due to the fact that Mecklenburg is a major flue-cured tobacco county.

Other committees such as Dairy, Livestock, Agronomy, etc., are set up in the same manner as the tobacco committee and function in about the same manner.

The county has one (1) farm organization, namely, The Farm Bureau.

II Type of Agriculture.

In land area, Mecklenburg is the eighth largest county in the State. It is the third largest county in the production of flue-cured tobacco.

Soil types vary greatly. About one-half of the county's soils are of granitic origin. The remaining half originated from slate.

Eighty percent (80%) of the farm cash income is derived from the sale of flue-cured tobacco. Approximately 10,589 acres of tobacco is produced on 2,601 tobacco farms. Cotton is produced on approximately 800 farms. Other major crops from an acreage standpoint are wheat, corn, pasture and hay crops. Corn acreage has always exceeded that of any other commodity.

The over-all agricultural situation is in a period of change, a somewhat gradual change. Many farmers are trying egg production, others livestock and some aromatic tobacco. Some are meeting with fair success, others are somewhat discouraged.

Definite changes will need be considered to assure farmers an adequate income. Farm leaders of this area agree that there is no immediate answer to the existing agricultural situation.

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D. Corn Production.

(a) Corn For Grain Production.

1. Situation.
2. Objectives.
3. Methods.
4. Results.

E. Electronic Farm Record Program.

(a) Mail-In Records.

1. Situation.
2. Objectives.
3. Methods.
4. Results.

F. 4-H Club and Older Youth Work.

1. Situation.
2. Objectives.
3. Methods.
4. Results.

IV Minor Project Activities.

(a) Wool Pool and Sheep Work.

1. Results.

(b) Turfgrass Establishment.

1. Results.

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

Lewis R. Copley

Name

County

Agent

Title

Dean P. Agee

Assistant Agent

L. M. Harrison, Jr.

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1961

Mecklenburg

County