

It is getting harder all the time to get people to attend farm meetings due mainly, we think, to television and radio programs. Since most of our farmers are part time farmers it is necessary in most cases to have our farm meetings at night which also conflicts with television, radio and other activities. Since it is hard to get farmers to attend night meetings the county agent feels the best way to get information to these people is through radio and news articles.

XIX. Evaluation of Year's Work

Keeping in mind our main objective in agricultural Extension teaching in the county is to improve rural living standards we tried to teach the farmers and the family better improved methods of farming, homemaking and working together as a family unit.

It is hard to evaluate in dollars and cents the help the Agricultural Extension Service has benefitted the people in the county. Our timely news articles and radio programs no doubt have helped numerous rural and urban people in their farm and home problems than is possible for us to have a record. Our agricultural program is a continuous long time program and since most of our farmers are part time farmers it takes longer and is harder to get agricultural programs across, not due to their ignorance but, due to their interest. It is a very slow and discouraging process in lots of cases, however, each year we feel we have made a great deal of progress over the previous year.

The county, state and federal agencies, business and civic organizations and others have been very cooperative with the county agent in assisting in any way possible with the Extension program.

As brought out in this report, the banks have been very cooperative with the county agent and the Extension program and the county agent has assisted them wherever possible with their respective programs dealing with rural people.

The civic organizations have had the county agent on their programs to discuss the agricultural programs within the county and to advise them in any way they can help. The county agent is well pleased with the splendid relationship he has received from all organizations including business, civic, federal, state and local agencies, operating within the county. The radio and press have given us splendid cooperation. The press has been very cooperative in publishing timely articles the county agent wants published free of charge. One of the radio stations gives the county agent twenty minutes a week free of charge for his program.

We used the following methods in our public relationship program:

- a. Inform rural people of the various programs effecting them.
- b. Organize rural people to carry out programs in rural sections of county.
- c. Inform urban people of agricultural program and problems.

We used the following general educational activities in promoting our public relations program by personal contact with rural and urban people in the office and field, meetings, conferences, letters, press and radio.

XVIII. Other Means of Reaching Rural People

The county agent feels that a double barrel approach is still necessary in reaching rural people, that is through mass media and by personal contact. Where only one of these approaches is used in the Extension program the county agent feels that the job is only half done. Personal visits are absolutely necessary so is mass media. The weekly radio programs which the county agent has for twenty minutes has given the farmers, non farmers and the urban people more timely information than he has been able to give through meetings and individual contacts.

Next to our radio program in reaching rural people and others interested in timely agricultural information is through articles written by the county agent which are published most of the time by two of our weekly papers.

We had one annual dinner meeting with a very interesting program relating to farm and home problems.

XVI. County USDA Emergency Planning Committee

The plan of work submitted to the state office failed to include the County USDA Emergency planning committee. However, the county agent feels that the work done should be written up in this report.

Mr. W. T. Powers, Administrative Officer of the Virginia Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Office, was named by the USDA Emergency Planning office in Washington, D. C. as chairman of the USDA State Emergency planning committee of Virginia.

The county Emergency Planning Committee consists of the county Agricultural Extension Agent, the Soil Conservation Service Work Unit Conservationist, the Farmers Home Administration County Supervisor, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service County Office Manager, and the United States Forest Service representative. The county agent was designated chairman of the Wise County USDA Emergency Planning Committee by Mr. Powers, chairman of the State Emergency Planning Committee.

The county USDA emergency planning committee is to carry out the department's responsibility in the county for defense mobilization planning. This committee has very important defense responsibilities in planning for any national emergency. In the event of such an emergency, it would have vital functions with food, soil and water as well as an educational program in the rural areas on Civil Defense Mobilization program.

The committee met twice during the year. The chairman and deputy chairman attended a regional meeting in Roanoke on USDA planning and Civil Defense.

XVII. Public Relations

The county agent's goal in public relations is to work with local, state and federal agencies on programs for general welfare of the people in the county. The county agent has always been willing to assist with the programs conducted in the county with organizations who seek his help where it is beneficial to the people within the county.

Bank of Baltimore at Big Stone Gap which was well attended. The meeting was very interesting and instructive.

c. Farm and Home Administration

The Farm and Home Administration office for Wise, Scott and Dickenson Counties is located in Gate City, Scott County, and is under the supervision of Mr. H. P. Miller. Mr. Miller has an office in the Wise Court House where he attends business in Wise County the first and third Monday of each month.

The Farm and Home Administration loans money to farmers who do not have enough credit to borrow at the local banks or Production Credit Association. Mr. Miller is very cooperative in making these loans in the county and is very cooperative in our Extension programs.

We used the following methods in our credit and loaning program:

- a. Find out amount he desires to borrow and how he intends to use loan.
- b. Direct him to the loaning agency best suited for his type of loan and amount.

We used the following general educational activities in cooperating with credit and loaning agencies through meetings, personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, radio, press and letters.

XIV. Rural Organizations

The county agent's goal was to organize farmers and homemakers' clubs provided rural community people wanted such clubs.

Since there is little or no interest by enough of the rural people in their community to have community clubs the county agent has not organized any this year.

XV. Farm and Home Development Program

The county agent's goal was to maintain and work with the ten farm and home development families.

These ten farm and home development families are the Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority demonstration farmers in the county. The county agent worked individually with these families in their farm and home problems.

The county agent's office and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office including county committee, community committeemen, office manager and district field representative cooperate exceptionally fine.

The county agent used the following methods in assisting with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Program:

- a. Attend county committee meetings when possible.
- b. Keep in touch with county office regularly to see if farmers are participating.
- c. Keep up with changes in program.
- d. Explain program to farmers.

We used the following general educational activities in promoting the program by meetings, personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, radio, press and letters.

XIII. Cooperation with Credit and Lending Agencies

The county agent's goal was to help farmers obtain credit when advisable.

a. Local

We do not have any local agencies loaning money to farmers in the county except our seven local banks. These banks are becoming more interested in obtaining farmers' loans than in the past. The county agent and local banks have exceptionally good relationship. Any time farmers wishing to obtain loans that the county agent thinks should be handled by local banks he advises him to get the loan from the bank he does business with.

Two of our local banks are sponsoring two pig chains which started in 1954. One of these banks is also buying 4-H Club calendars to be distributed to the 4-H Clubs and local merchants in their banking territory.

b. Farm Credit Administration

The Production Credit Association and the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore have a joint office with the same personnel handling both loans located at Big Stone Gap in Wise County serving Lee, Scott, Dickenson and Wise Counties. The executive secretary, Mr. Rufus Rollins, and Mrs. Kermit Wilson, Secretary, are very cooperative in making loans to our farmers where advisable. They are also very cooperative with us in our county Extension program.

The county agent attended the annual dinner meeting held for the patrons of the Production Credit Administration and Federal Land

- b. Good programs.
- c. Attend meetings when possible.
- d. Visit as many of the club projects as possible.
- e. 4-H Club Council meetings.
- f. 4-H Club Camp.

We used the following general educational activities in our 4-H Club program by meetings with rural and urban boys and girls, project instructions by county agent in meetings, visits to members, press, radio and letters.

XIII. Cooperation with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

The county agent's goal was to serve as ex-officio member of the county committee and advise farmers of the program.

The County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, formerly called the Production Marketing Administration, has a county committee of four members, twelve community committeemen, one office manager and one clerk. The county agent is the fourth member of the committee who is ex-officio member without a vote or administrative power.

The county committee handles the administration of the program within the county under the direct supervision of the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committee from Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Buford Blevins, District Supervisor, supervises all of the work done by the county office manager and committees within the county.

The twelve community committeemen are responsible to the county committee in any work in their respective community dealing with the Stabilization and Conservation program. The county and community committeemen are paid for their services on a per diem basis. The county agent, being ex-officio member and a Federal and State paid employee, does not receive any compensation for his services in connection with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service program.

The United States Secretary of Agriculture holds all the county agents responsible for the educational phase of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service program within their respective counties. The county agent works closely with the county committee and office manager in regard to the county program. The county agent not only discusses the program with the farmers in the office and field but on the radio programs during the year trying to get the farmers to participate in the program and to obtain the practices that are most beneficial to them in conservation on their farms.

XI. 4-H Club Activities

Our goal in 4-H Club work was to maintain the 24 4-H Clubs we now have.

Since we sent in our spring report on the number of 4-H Clubs and enrollment we organized a community 4-H Club at the request of the community boys and girls.

Since there is not a home demonstration agent in the county the county agent takes care of the entire 4-H Club program, both boys and girls. There were 322 girls and 268 boys enrolled in 968 projects in the 24 clubs.

The county agent had 1 member enrolled in corn with no completions; 4 enrolled in potatoes with 2 completions; 72 enrolled in vegetable growing with 32 completions; 7 enrolled in small fruits with no completions; 3 enrolled in soil and water conservation with 1 completion; 73 enrolled in forestry with 31 completions; 28 enrolled in poultry with 11 completions; 9 enrolled in dairy cattle with 5 completions; 4 enrolled in beef cattle with 5 completions; 15 enrolled in swine production with 9 completions; 9 enrolled in pony care with 1 completion; 5 enrolled in rabbits with no completions; 87 enrolled in entomology with 33 completions; 88 enrolled in electricity with 43 completions; 24 enrolled in automotive care and safety with 5 completions; 102 enrolled in beautification of home grounds with 44 completions; 137 enrolled in looking your best with 159 completions; 296 enrolled in safety with 199 completions; 4 members enrolled in apple trees with 1 completion. We had 59.3% completions in projects.

We had eight members attending Senior 4-H Club Camp at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Club Center in Abingdon, Virginia.

We had sixteen club members attending Junior 4-H Club at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Club Center in Abingdon, Virginia.

We had one 4-H Club boy and one 4-H Club girl attending Fontana Camp sponsored by the Valley Wide Tennessee Valley Authority Demonstration Association.

We had three girls and one boy attending 4-H Short Course at VPI, Blacksburg.

We had four 4-H Club boys attending the 4-H Forestry School at Jamestown 4-H Club Camp.

We used the following methods in promoting our 4-H Club program:

- a. Good leaders if possible.

soral contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, meetings and letters.

X. Forestry

The forestry committee set as the goal to plant wasteland to desirable forestry tree seedlings and better care of farm woodlots, increase tree seedling plantings 350 acres over 1960, two more forestry demonstrations showing proper forestry management.

I am sorry to say we were unable to find suitable forests and ownership to establish two more demonstrations showing proper forestry management. However, we are continuing looking for same.

We feel that the farmers and landowners through our very intensive forestry program are taking better care of their farm woodlots than they have in the past. They are thinning out undesirable, ill shaped and diseased trees of desirable species and are doing a better job of selective cutting for farm and commercial use. Several of our farmers are reforesting their mined stripped land and wasteland to short leaf, white and loblolly pines.

The forestry committee and county agent are putting on an intensive tree planting program with the coal strip operators and owners in reclaiming the coal mined stripped areas. Most of the coal strippers and landowners have been very cooperative in this project. However, there is still a lot to be done.

The committee feels that we surpassed our goal of planting 350 acres of forest tree seedlings this year.

We assisted 650 farmers and others in forestry tree seedling plantings; 48 farmers and others in timber stand improvement; 306 farmers and others in timber harvesting; 35 farmers and others in marketing and 9,950 farmers and others in fire prevention.

The county agent attended one forestry school in Blackstone for one week where he obtained valuable information which he will pass on to farmers and others interested in forestry.

We used the following methods in our forestry program:

- a. Get seedling trees from TVA and State nurseries for farmers and landowners to plant on wasteland and coal stripped areas.
- b. Show farmer and landowner the need for proper woodland management.

We used the following educational activities in promoting our forestry program by personal contact with farmers in the office and field by county agent, specialists, radio, press and demonstrators.

farm labor in most cases.

There is not much we can do about the farm labor situation except encourage farmers to obtain labor saving machinery when he can economically use it.

We used the following methods in our farm labor program:

- a. Comparison of farm labor with machine labor.
- b. Not enough farm labor available.

We used the following general educational activities by personal contact by county agent with farmers in the office and field and radio.

VIII. Agricultural Planning

Our goal in agricultural planning was to complete the organization of the County Agricultural Extension Service Board which we have done.

This Extension Service Board is made up of six commodity groups which are the agronomy, livestock, horticulture, poultry, dairying and forestry. We also have one youth committee. These committees and the Extension Service Board met and planned the Extension program for the year and a five year program.

IX. Cooperatives

The county agent's goal in cooperatives was to help the Wise and Lee Dairy Herd Improvement Association and the Wise and Lee Artificial Breeding Association be more beneficial and successful. He encouraged dairymen to participate in both of these associations.

The county agent assisted in the organization of the Big Seven Canning Company Cooperative in the county.

The county agent also helped the Southern States Stores within the county in obtaining better strains and quality of seeds and analysis of fertilizers recommended by the agronomy department.

We used the following methods in our cooperative program:

- a. Benefits dairymen obtain by belonging to cooperative.
- b. Consultation with directors and manager.
- c. Importance of dairymen supporting cooperatives.

We used the following general educational activities by per-

- d. Cultural practices.
- e. Kinds and amounts of fertilizers to use.
- f. Insect control.
- g. Disease control.

We used the following general educational activities through personal contact with rural and urban people by county agent in office and field, letters, press, radio and bulletins.

VI. Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority Demonstration Program

Our goal was to carry out the Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority program as outlined for 1961.

Since the county agent does not have an assistant, it is very hard for him to carry out as good an Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority demonstration program as he would like. However, he has worked with all demonstrators which is tea.

We had one annual dinner meeting for the demonstrators and their wives at which meeting we discussed and planned how to make the demonstration program better in the county.

We used the following methods in our Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority demonstration program:

- a. Consult with county committee concerning best method in carrying on Extension-TVA program.
- b. Individual farm planning with demonstrators.
- c. Advise demonstrators of changes in program.
- d. Farm account books.
- e. Assist in balancing farm business.
- f. Field meeting on demonstration farms.

We used the following general educational activities in our Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority program through meetings, letters, personal contact with demonstrators by county agent in the office and field and specialists.

VII. Farm Labor

Our goal in farm labor was to help farmers obtain labor saving machinery wherever he can economically use it, thereby, hiring labor only when necessary. Although there is a lot of unemployment in the county due to mechanization of the mines, it is very hard to obtain

The main vegetables we are raising for market are snap beans, tomatoes, Irish potatoes, head lettuce, kale and sweet corn.

We used the following methods in our vegetable program:

- a. Market demand in county and adjoining market exceeds our production, however, hard to sell on account of poor marketing system.
- b. Better varieties and those varieties that are disease resistant if adapted to county.
- c. Seed treatment.
- d. Proper application and kind of fertilizer to use.
- e. Kind of insect sprays to use and when to apply.
- f. Kind of disease sprays to use and when to apply.
- g. Rotation of vegetable crops to control diseases and insects.
- h. Better grading and packing.
- i. Cooperative market and cannery.

We used the following general educational activities in our vegetable production by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, press, radio, letters and bulletins.

E. Ornamental Horticulture

Our ornamental horticulture committee set as our goal in ornamental horticulture to beautify our home grounds in both urban and rural areas.

The county agent has made several visits helping both rural and urban people with numerous flowers and ornamental shrubs and lawn problems. He has also helped with landscaping school grounds, seeding, fertilizing and liming football fields. He has attended some of the garden clubs and has received numerous office and phone calls relating to ornamental horticulture problems.

We assisted 5,175 farmers and others in improved flowers and strains of flowers, ornamental shrubs and trees; 3,142 farmers and others in use of fertilizer; 8,110 farmers and others in controlling injurious insects; 7,152 farmers and others in controlling diseases; 210 farmers and others in harvesting and storing; 62 farmers in efficient work methods; 33 farmers and others in some phase of marketing.

We used the following methods in our ornamental horticulture program:

- a. Kinds of annual and biennial flowers.
- b. Kind of trees and shrubs to plant.
- c. Kinds of lawn mixtures to seed.

120 farmers and others in controlling injurious insects; 145 farmers and others in controlling diseases; 21 farmers and others in harvesting; 12 farmers and others in efficient work methods and 21 farmers in some phase of marketing.

We used the following methods in our small fruit program:

- a. Show farmers the demand far exceeds the supply of berries.
- b. Show farmer it is a good cash crop, especially for the small farmer.
- c. Proper location and soil type for good berry production.
- d. Best varieties suited to our county.
- e. Get plants from reliable nursery.
- f. Preparation of soil before planting.
- g. Kind of fertilizer to use and amounts and time to apply.
- h. Control of diseases and insects.
- i. How and when to mulch strawberries.
- j. How and when to prune raspberries.
- k. How and when to prune grapes.

We used the following general educational activities by personal contact with farmers in field and office, meetings, letters, radio, bulletins and specialists.

D. Vegetable Production

The vegetable committee decided not to increase vegetable production until the growers organized a cooperative market and/or obtain a commercial cannery.

Since it was definitely decided in early spring of 1961 that we were going to organize a cooperative commercial cannery and that the cannery would can tomatoes this year, we put on a very intensive educational program of raising tomatoes for the cannery.

Due to getting such a late start with the cannery, it was too late for a lot of the vegetable growers to change their plans to raise commercial canning tomatoes this year. However, we had approximately 24 acres raised.

Wise County, with its loam soil, its good rainfall and climatic conditions, make it an excellent county for growing all varieties of vegetables that can be grown in our type of climate. Until we obtain a cooperative market and the cannery can can other vegetables besides tomatoes we feel we should maintain our present vegetable production instead of increasing it. We feel that by maintaining our present vegetable production we are able to market our products without too much difficulty in our county, adjacent Kentucky counties and the vegetable market at Knoxville, Tennessee.

some of the growers are planning to plant small peach orchards in the near future.

Since most of our leading peach varieties get winter killed and spring frosted the growers are waiting for hardier varieties to be propagated that will withstand our cold condition.

We used the following methods in our peach program:

- a. Kind of site for peach orchards.
- b. The new varieties recommended for county.
- c. Kind of fertilizer to use.
- d. Cultural practices.
- e. Pruning.
- f. Control of diseases.
- g. Control of insects.

We used the following general educational activities in our peach program by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, meetings and through specialists.

C. Small Fruits

The fruit committee set our small fruit goal to increase our acreage of strawberries, raspberries and table grapes all we possibly can as the present production is way below the demand.

The committee did not set any specific acreage goal. Since our soils and climate are well adapted to small fruits and with an excellent market we feel that the farmers, particularly the small farmers, should raise more of these small fruits as their main cash crops. The small farmers with their family labor in most cases can take good care of at least one-half to one acre and make a good income from same.

The fruit committee and county agent have worked hard in trying to get more small fruits planted but since there is a lot of hand labor to small fruits, especially strawberries, the farmers seem to shy away from its production even though it does pay a nice income.

I am sorry to say that we only had approximately twelve acres of commercial strawberries, four acres of commercial raspberries and no commercial planting of grapes this year.

This year we assisted 96 farmers and others in improved varieties of small fruits; 105 farmers and others in use of fertilizer;

season with the fruit growers in the orchards helping them decide which spray materials to use and time of application for control of both insects and diseases.

We assisted 1,910 farmers and others in improved varieties and strains of apples to plant; 1,520 farmers and others in use of fertilizer; 2,190 farmers and others in controlling injurious insects; 2,510 farmers and others in controlling diseases; 180 farmers and others in harvesting and storing; 85 farmers and others in efficient work methods; 192 farmers and others in some phase of marketing.

We used the following methods in our apple program:

- a. What constitutes a good apple orchard site.
- b. Desirable apple varieties and their desirable reports to plant according to consumer demands and their growing habits.
- c. Advantages of canning plant.
- d. Use right kind of spray materials for diseases and insects.
- e. Apply spray materials at proper time.
- f. Apply spray materials thoroughly.
- g. Prune trees properly.
- h. Proper application of nitrate and commercial fertilizer to trees.
- i. Proper cultivation of orchards.
- j. Orchard mice control.
- k. Thin apples if too heavy a set.
- l. Proper picking, grading and packing.
- m. Importance of maintaining quality from picking until reaches consumer.
- n. Recommend the Extension Horticulturists keep apple growers informed if Food and Drug Administration change the amount of tolerance of any of present insecticides.
- o. Recommend the Horticultural Experiment Station and Extension Horticultural Department do more research on physiological effect of apple tree fertilization on leaf and fruit development with respect to quality of fruit at harvest.

We used the following general educational activities in promoting our apple program by meetings, tours, specialists, timely spray information through spray cards, letters, press, radio and personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field.

3. Peach Production

The fruit committee set our long time goal to plant 1,000 acres of desirable peaches only on good sites.

The 1961 goal was to plant as many orchards as possible as there is only one small peach orchard in the county. I am sorry to say we did not plant any commercial peach orchards this year. However,

makes it well adapted to apple growing. We feel that the apples grown in the mountains of Wise County for the above reasons have a better flavor than those grown in most parts of the United States.

We have an active fruit growers association which meets monthly except in January and October which has helped the fruit committee, county agent and horticultural specialists put over a very intensive educational apple program in the county. We do not meet in January on account of the annual state horticultural society meeting and the month of October due to harvesting. Practically every month we have one or more of the specialists from the Extension Horticulture Department or Experiment Station to discuss timely topics. These specialists as well as the county agent are continuously dwelling on the production of high quality apples through the use of right kinds of spray materials, timely sprays and thorough application. We also discuss other timely topics on orchard management at these meetings such as proper fertilization, pruning, mouse control, picking, grading, packing, marketing and many other orchard problems.

We had eight monthly night meetings, one all day fruit school, one two-light orchard meeting, one all day tour of orchards in the county and picnic. The all day fruit school in Wise County was for all growers in Wise and eight other Southwest Virginia counties. The school was conducted by fruit specialists from the Extension Horticultural Department, Entomologists and Plant Pathologists and other specialists from the Horticultural Experiment Station.

We had a very enjoyable and instructive all day tour of orchards in the county with a very fine picnic served by the wives of the fruit growers. Eighty-five fruit growers, their wives, horticulture specialists, marketing specialists and county agent attended this tour and picnic.

Wise County was highly honored by two horticultural specialists, three county agents and twelve fruit growers of Kentucky spending the best part of two days touring and studying the apple industry in Wise County. The county agent conducted the tour. This tour was highly successful and was enjoyed by all.

We are pleased with the apple crop in Wise County this year considering we had a great deal of cold weather during the apple blooming period. We estimate a 65% normal crop which was approximately 190,000 bushels. The quality is exceptionally good but the size a little small due to unfavorable growing conditions earlier during the season.

Since the apple spray programs are becoming more and more complicated the county agent spent a lot of time during the growing

varieties and to build a cooperative packing plant and cannery. The committee's goal for 1961 was to build a cannery, to increase present plantings by 150 acres, take out as many unproductive trees and undesirable varieties in present orchards as possible and replace them with sports of desirable varieties, to increase better quality of apples grown and a better quality pack. Also, maintain quality from packing shed to consumer by better handling methods.

The county agent is happy to report that a long time goal and dream was realized this year in establishing a cannery in the county. The cannery is located at Big Stone Gap in Wise County which is centrally located for Lee, Scott, and Wise Counties for the production of vegetables and apples. However, most of the apples are produced in Wise County. This cannery is a cooperative set up of not only farmers but interested people of the three counties. Due to getting the cannery in operation late, it only canned tomatoes and apple sauce this year, however, in the future we expect to can other vegetables.

Since the Wise County agriculture census is incorrect due to the enumerators not being able to complete the county, the county agent feels that the 1956 census is more correct in reporting our commercial apple tree population. Our commercial apple tree population in Wise County has decreased 32% since 1949 according to the 1956 census. Trees of bearing age declined 38% during this period but trees of non bearing age increased 1%. The number of commercial orchards decreased 19%, from 70 in 1947 to 57 in 1956. The total number of apple trees including non bearing and bearing age in 1949 was 51,068. The number of non bearing and bearing age of trees in 1956 was 34,955. In view of these statistics the committee in a long time program desires our apple tree population to be approximately 105,000.

We feel that we have accomplished a great deal in our apple tree planting goal for this year. There were approximately 4,200 apple trees of good varieties planted this year on good sites and approximately 4,800 trees set in old orchards replacing undesirable varieties, weak and dead trees. The main reason for our decrease in commercial orchards was the vast increase in cost of production and marketing the apples in comparison to the little or no increase in the past twenty-five years in sale price. The committee and county agent feel that unless the fruit growers organize into cooperatives to buy supplies and equipment and for marketing purposes, they will be forced out of business.

Wise County is well adapted to apple growing especially in the upper section of the county around the Wise Court House due mainly to its high altitude. With our normal rainfall which is generally well distributed over the year and our soils being of a loam nature

We used the following methods in our pork production program:

- a. More sows to farrow.
- b. Better care of sows at farrowing.
- c. Breed sows to farrow in spring and fall.
- d. Better feeding methods.
- e. Feed more minerals to breeding stock and fattening hogs.
- f. Treat pigs for worms.
- g. Vaccinate to prevent cholera.

We used the following general educational activities in our pork production program by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, letters, press, radio and bulletins.

C. Sheep Production

The livestock committee decided that our goal in sheep production should be to take better care of sheep now on farm and not to increase sheep production due to large population of dogs. This is the committee's same goal as last year.

We have an excellent county for sheep and used to raise a very large population of sheep until the sheep farmers were forced out of business due to the large population of dogs.

We assisted 4 farmers in selection and breeding; 5 farmers in better feeding methods; 5 farmers in controlling diseases and internal parasites; 5 farmers in controlling external parasites; 4 farmers in some phase of marketing.

We used the following methods in our sheep production program:

- a. Better care of ewes at lambing.
- b. Better rams.
- c. Better feeding methods.
- d. Worm flock three times during year.

We used the following general educational activities in promoting our sheep program by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office and bulletins.

5. Horticulture

A. Apple Production

The fruit committee set as our long time goal to triple our apple tree population, take out old trees and undesirable varieties in our present orchards and replace them with sports of desirable

We feel that we met our goal of 25% increase. This increase was mainly by the old beef cattle farmers increasing the size of their herds as very few farmers went into the beef cattle enterprise this year. The farmers are culling their beef cattle more rigidly and replacing them with purebreds and better grades and obtaining better bulls. The beef farmers who do not have cow and calf herds are buying better calves in the fall to feed and graze and sell them in the following fall.

This year we assisted 76 farmers in selection and breeding of beef cattle; 302 farmers in better feeding management practices; 505 farmers in controlling diseases and internal parasites; 22 farmers in more efficient work methods; 106 farmers in some phase of marketing.

We used the following methods in our beef cattle program:

- a. Better bulls and cows.
- b. Better pastures by use of lime and phosphate.
- c. Use of complete fertilizer where needed.
- d. Better hay.
- e. Better control of diseases and parasites.
- f. Better feeding management.

We used the following general educational activities in promoting our beef cattle program by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, letters, press, radio and bulletins.

B. Pork Production

The livestock committee set our pork production goal to increase 20% in 1961 over 1960. This is the same goal as established in 1960.

We feel that we increased our pork production only 10% falling short of our goal 10%. We have not been able to get the farmers to raise enough brood sows to supply enough pigs for the fattening pig market in the county. We feel that we have obtained most of this 10% increase in pork production through the 4-H Club members having sow and pig projects.

We assisted 418 farmers and others in selecting and breeding; 500 farmers and others in better feeding methods; 540 farmers in controlling external parasites; 830 farmers and others in controlling diseases and internal parasites; 41 farmers and others in efficient work methods; 475 farmers and others in some phase of marketing.

dairymen operating under both of these programs have stabilized the milk marketing conditions.

We were very fortunate this year to have the Virginia State Holstein Friesian Breeders Association Field Day in the county which was well attended with great interest and pleasure by approximately 200 dairymen, specialists and others from over the state.

We used the following methods in promoting our dairy program:

- a. 15 and 20 cow herds good income for family size farms.
- b. Better cows from high producing parentage to replace culled cows.
- c. Increase cow population from cows of high producing parentage.
- d. More ladino and orchard grass pastures.
- e. Better pastures by reseeding on thin pastures.
- f. Better pastures by use of lime and phosphate.
- g. Use of complete fertilizer where needed.
- h. Better hay--alfalfa, clover and lespedeza.
- i. Better curing methods of hay.
- j. Small grain for late fall and early winter grazing.
- k. Better sires from high producing parentage.
- l. Better barns.
- m. Dairy Herd Improvement Association.
- n. Artificial Breeding Association.
- o. Breed cows to freshen in fall and winter months when milk is needed most.
- p. Make people's conscious of county produced milk through advertisement.
- q. Better feeding management.

We used the following general educational activities by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, letters, meetings, bulletins, Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority demonstration farmers, specialists, press and radio.

4. Livestock

A. Beef Cattle

The livestock committee set as our beef cattle goal to increase production of beef cattle 25% in 1961 over 1960 and to increase quality and better finish on our cattle. This is the same goal as established in 1960.

The committee felt that with the increased acreage and better quality of meadows and pastures we would need at least a 25% increase in beef cattle production as well as an increase in dairy cows as recommended by the dairy committee.

3,512 farmers and others in controlling diseases and internal parasites; 85 farmers and others in efficient work methods; 340 farmers and others in some phase of marketing.

We used the following methods in our broiler production program:

- a. Better strain of chicks for broiler production.
- b. Obtain baby chicks from pollerum free hatcheries.
- c. Better brooders.
- d. Better feeding methods.
- e. Better sanitation to control diseases and parasites.

We used the following general educational activities by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, letters, radio and bulletins.

3. Dairying

The dairy committee set our dairy goal to increase our commercial cow population 20% and our milk production 45% in 1961 over 1960.

We feel we only increased our commercial cow population 15% instead of the desired 20%. This 15% increase in dairy cow population was done by our present dairymen as no new dairymen were started in the county this year. Neither did we meet our goal of 45% more milk production this year due to falling short of the increase in commercial cows, however, we feel that with the increase in commercial cows plus better cow culling, feeding and other management practices, we increased our milk production 30% instead of 45% as desired.

We feel that the Wise-Lee Dairy Herd Improvement Association which was organized with the assistance of the county agents of Lee and Wise Counties about twelve years ago has helped our dairymen a great deal in being able to weed out the undesirable, low producing cows and getting records of dams and offsprings so the dairymen will know which replacements to keep or sell to other dairymen.

We also feel that the Wise and Lee Artificial Breeding Association which was organized about nine years ago by the dairymen of the two counties has been a great help in improving the dairy herds for higher production in both counties.

The dairymen of Wise County and all the other Southwest Virginia counties as well as parts of Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia are operating under the Tri-State Milk Producers Association and the Federal Marketing Milk Control Act. We feel that the

agent in office and field, contact with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office as to tobacco allotments, press, letters, specialists and bulletins.

2. Poultry Production

A. Increased Egg Production

The committee's long time goal in poultry production is to produce all the eggs as far as practical and possible that are consumed in the county. Our goal this year is to produce 30% more eggs than 1960.

We feel that we met our egg production goal of 30%. We feel we gained most of this increase in egg production mainly through two of our largest poultrymen who have increased the size of their flocks. The rest of the increase was due to better birds and management of farm flocks. We did not have any increase in commercial flocks.

We used the following methods in our egg production program:

- a. Larger farm flocks for more cash income.
- b. Obtain pullets from pollorum free hatcheries and pullets from high producing parentage.
- c. Better housing.
- d. Better feeding methods.
- e. More rigid culling.
- f. Better sanitation to control diseases and parasites.
- g. Got baby chicks for laying flock early so they will start laying in latter part of August and middle of September.

We used the following general educational activities by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, by letters, radio and bulletins.

B. Increased Broiler Production

Our goal was to increase broiler production by 5% in 1961 over 1960 mainly for farm consumption. Due to the extreme low price of broilers and high cost of feed and not having a broiler dressing plant in the county or nearby, the committee did not think it advisable to put on a very intensive educational program to encourage our farmers to raise broilers for commercial purposes. However, we feel that the farmers should increase their broiler production by 5% of which they would have for their own consumption with a few broilers to sell to their neighbors and nearby grocery stores.

This year we assisted 1,965 farmers and others in selection and breeding; 2,418 farmers and others in better feeds and feeding methods; 2,870 farmers and others in controlling external parasites;

We used the following methods in our approach to proper land use of coal stripped areas:

- a. Soil and water conservation.
- b. Soil analysis.
- c. Best use of land.
- d. Preparation of land after being stripped.

We used the following educational activities by personal contact with farmers, landowners and coal strip operators by county agent in the field and office, by letters, press, radio, demonstrations and specialists.

J. Burley Tobacco

The agronomy committee set our burley tobacco goal for all the burley tobacco allotments to be planted. There were 207 burley tobacco allotments with an acreage of 82.21. There were 10.13 acres of this allotment not planted.

Again this year in cooperation with Mr. G. R. Mathews, Extension Burley Tobacco Specialist, VPI, Blacksburg, Dr. R. G. Henderson, Experiment Station Plant Pathologist, the American Tobacco Company, Reynolds Tobacco Company, and Mr. McGruder Slomp, tobacco farmer, we put on an acre demonstration of burley tobacco of ten different varieties of one-tenth acre each. This tobacco will be chemically tested for flavor, nicotine content, aroma, disease resistance and yield. These tests will help the experiment station and tobacco companies in determining which varieties of burley tobacco to grow that will fit our needs the best. We are sure that this demonstration will be of great help in determining the best varieties to grow. This demonstration was visited by representatives of these tobacco companies, Mr. Mathews, Dr. Henderson, county agent and others during the growing season.

We conducted two burley tobacco grading demonstrations this fall to aid the farmers in better handling, grading and marketing their tobacco.

We used the following methods in our burley tobacco program:

- a. Varieties best adapted to county.
- b. Kinds and amounts of fertilizer and lime to apply determined by soil analysis for plant bed and field.
- c. Preparation of plant bed and field.
- d. Cultural practices best adapted.
- e. Harvesting and curing methods.
- f. Proper grading and care.
- g. Marketing.

We used the following general educational activities in our burley tobacco program by personal contact with farmers by county

We feel that we fell short 5% of reaching our goal. This practice seems to be one of the hardest practices the county agent has in his entire agronomy program. Most farmers are realizing the importance of contour and strip cropping in saving their soil from washing and becoming less productive each year.

This year we assisted 516 farmers and others in contour and strip cropping. With a large percentage of our land being steep, we feel that this is one of our most important jobs in assisting farmers with proper rotations within the strips, the closeness of the strips according to degree of slope and other cultural and fertilizer practices on these steep slopes.

We used the following methods in our contour and strip crop program:

- a. Value of strip cropping.
- b. Proper rotations in strip cropping.
- c. Width of strips on different degree slopes.

We used the following general educational activities by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, by letters, press, radio, bulletins and specialists.

I. Proper Land Use of Coal Stripped Areas

The agronomy committee set our goal of 40% of coal stripped land to be put in adapted crops or forest tree seedlings in 1961. This is the same goal as 1960.

I am sorry to say that due to lack of state legislation requiring the coal strippers and/or the landowner to level the land back into a practical manner for crop production, we were only able to get about 25% of our coal land to adapted clovers and grass mixtures or planted to forest tree seedlings.

Most of the land that we were able to get the coal strippers and landowners to properly prepare has been planted to grass and clover mixtures, small grain, or lespedeza according to the degree of fertility and humus. However, some of the level stripped areas was planted to tree seedlings, mostly short leaf and white pine. About 5% of the area that was stripped but not leveled by the stripper and landowner has been planted to pine tree seedlings. In most cases, these pine tree seedlings are growing exceptionally well.

We are still trying to get proper state legislation passed whereby all of this coal stripped area will be properly leveled and planted to its best land use.

to the shortage and high cost of farm labor, farmers were not able to keep their steep pastures brushed as well as they would have liked to have done. Where the pasture land was not too steep, a lot of the undesirable vegetation was mowed by machinery. Also, some farmers have kept their pastures clean of undesirable vegetation by spraying weeds and brush with chemicals. Several of the farmers have improved their old pastures by reseeding where necessary and by proper use of fertilizer and lime. The new pastures were seeded in most cases with better adapted pasture mixtures and were better fertilized and limed than in the past.

We used the following methods in our pasture program:

- a. Steep land used for row crops would be more profitable seeded to good pasture mixtures.
- b. Brush off pastures where needed.
- c. Reseeding pastures where needed.
- d. Best adapted grasses and legumes for pastures in county.
- e. Ladino and orchard grass pasture.
- f. Application of lime where growth and soil analysis show the need.
- g. Application of phosphate.
- h. Application of complete fertilizer where needed.
- i. Advise against over or under grazing.

We used the following general educational activities in promoting our pasture program through Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority demonstrators, personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Program, press, radio, bulletins and specialists.

We are pleased with the response we are obtaining from our farmers in our intensive forage crop program. The farmers are seeding better meadow mixtures, fertilizing and liming them better as well as cutting and curing hay when it is at its best. The farmers are doing a much better job with their pastures by seeding better pasture mixtures, fertilizing and liming and better grazing methods. They are also seeding more small grain in the early fall for early winter and spring grazing.

There were approximately 500 acres of corn land taken out of cultivation this year and seeded either to pasture or meadow mixtures which is an excellent step in better land use and farm management as a lot of this corn land is steep and should be in conservation crops.

H. Contour and Strip Cropping

The agronomy committee set our goal for 20% more farmers to properly strip crop in 1961 than last year.

We used the following general educational activities in our ladino clover and grass mixture program by personal contact with county agent in the office and field, by letters, Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority demonstrators, radio, press, specialists and bulletins.

F. Other Legumes and Grasses for Hay and Ensilage

The agronomy committee set as our goal for other legumes and grasses for hay and ensilage to increase 25% over 1960 and to grow and cure better hay and better ensilage.

We feel that we increased our acreage of hay 25%. We feel that we increased the yield 75% over last year due to an exceptionally good growing season. We feel that we surpassed our goal of 25% in acreage of ensilage by 20%. We feel that we increased the tonnage of ensilage by 80% due to better growing season, proper hybrid corn for ensilage, better fertilization, better cultural practices, mainly spraying ensilage for weed control.

The farmers are realizing more all the time the importance of cutting their hay at the proper stage of maturity for high protein and chlorophyll content and palatability.

We used the following methods in our legume and grasses for hay and ensilage program:

- a. Better use of lime and fertilizer.
- b. Kind of legumes and grasses best adapted to locality and use.
- c. Higher rate of seeding in new meadows.
- d. Cutting at proper stage to give higher protein and chlorophyll content.
- e. Proper curing to produce more palatable hay with higher protein and chlorophyll content.
- f. Installing of more hay driers.
- g. Installation of more silos.

We used the following general educational activities in our hay and ensilage program by personal contact with farmers in field and office by county agent, press, letters, Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority demonstrators, radio, bulletins and specialists.

G. Pasture Improvement

The agronomy committee set as our pasture improvement goal to increase both permanent and cropland pastures 20% over 1960. We feel that we surpassed this goal 20%. Several of the farmers have taken land out of cultivation and put it into pastures and meadows due mainly to scarcity and high cost of farm labor. However, due

especially dairymen and beef cattle men, seeded it for early grazing and to turn under in the spring as a green manure crop.

Our 1961 mixed grain goal was to increase our acreage 130 over last year. We feel that we surpassed this goal by 100 acres as several farmers seeded mixed grain for late winter and early spring pasture.

We used the following methods in our small grain program:

- a. Advantages of growing small grain crop for feed on farm for family and livestock.
- b. Advantages as cover crop and winter pasture.
- c. Advantages as hay and ensilage.
- d. Plant certified adapted varieties for county.
- e. Proper fertilization and liming according to soil analysis.
- f. Proper seed bed preparation.
- g. Time and rate of seeding.
- h. Proper time to harvest for hay, ensilage or grain.

We used the following general educational activities in our small grain program by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, press, letters, Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority demonstrators, specialists, radio and bulletins.

E. Ladino Clover

The agronomy committee set for our 1961 goal 200 new farmers grow one acre of ladino clover and orchard grass mixture for every three head of livestock on farm. We feel that we fell short 75 new farmers growing at least one acre of ladino clover and orchard grass for every three head of livestock on farm. However, we had approximately 125 farmers who have been growing ladino and orchard grass or Kentucky 31 Fescue to increase their acreage to approximately 450 acres. Most of the farmers growing ladino clover and grass mixtures for the first time wanted to grow small acreage to see how well it would grow and also as to whether or not their cattle would bloat before putting out the agronomy committee's recommendations.

We used the following methods in our ladino clover and grass mixture program:

- a. Best use of ladino clover.
- b. Soil adaptation.
- c. Seeding with orchard grass or Kentucky Fescue 31.
- d. Preparation of land.
- e. Lime requirement (soil analysis).
- f. Kind and amount of fertilizer to use (soil sample).
- g. Rate of seeding.
- h. Care of stand.
- i. Grazing management to prevent bloat.

We used the following general educational activities in our alfalfa program by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the office and field, letters, press, radio, specialists and bulletins.

C. Hybrid Corn

The agronomy committee's long time goal is to have all farmers raising corn to raise adapted hybrid varieties. The committee's goal in 1961 is 98% of farmers raising corn to raise adapted varieties. We feel we met this goal.

We used the following methods in our hybrid corn program:

- a. Advantages of adapted hybrid varieties over open pollinated varieties.
- b. Adapted varieties best suited to county.
- c. Plant only certified seed.
- d. Proper fertilization and liming as indicated by soil analysis.
- e. Proper spacing of corn between rows and in row.
- f. Proper cultural methods.

We used the following general educational activities in our hybrid corn program by personal contact in the field and office by county agent, by meetings, press, radio, circular letters, bulletins and specialists.

D. Small Grain

The agronomy committee set our 1961 wheat goal to increase our acreage 25 over last year. We did not meet this goal. We did not get any increase in our wheat acreage over 1960 due mainly to the wheat acreage allotment program. The wheat acreage in the county has been drastically reduced to only 16.1 acres.

Our 1961 oat goal was to increase our acreage 300 over last year. We feel that we surpassed this goal by 100 acres as most farmers use oats as a nurse crop in seeding pastures and meadows and several of the farmers, particularly dairymen, seeded it for fall and winter pastures.

Our 1961 barley goal was to increase our acreage 120 over last year. We feel that we fell short of our barley goal by 20 acres. We feel that we did not reach this goal due mainly that some farmers could not get their barley seeded early enough in the fall due to harvesting their corn crop and seeded winter oats and rye instead.

Our 1961 rye goal was to increase our acreage 130 over last year. We feel that we surpassed this goal by 75 acres as a lot of farmers

A. Cover Crops

In our cover crop program for the year the agronomy committee set our goal for 75% of farmers to sow cover crops on cultivated land. We feel that we fell short 5% of reaching our goal. However, we feel that this percentage was pretty good. We put on a very intensive cover crop program with the following methods:

- a. Benefits of cover crops.
- b. The cover crops that are best suited to Wise County.
- c. Best varieties of adapted cover crops.
- d. Seed treatment of cover crops of the grain varieties.
- e. Inoculation of legume cover crops.
- f. Proper time and method of seeding.
- g. Proper preparation of land.
- h. Kind and amount of fertilizer to use.
- i. Best use of cover crops.
- j. Demonstrations of desirable cover crops.

We tried to get these main methods dealing with cover crops to the farmers by personal contact with farmers by county agent in the field and office, press, meetings, letters, radio, specialists and bulletins.

B. Alfalfa

The agronomy committee, realizing that alfalfa is the most superior crop in protein value we can raise and also be cut three or four times a season, decided that we should put on a very intensive alfalfa program for both early spring and late summer seedings.

The agronomy committee set the goal to increase the alfalfa acreage 460 in 1961 over last year's seeding. We feel we surpassed this goal by 40 acres. This increase in acreage was done mostly by farmers seeding alfalfa for the first time.

We used the following methods in our alfalfa program:

- a. Advantages of growing alfalfa where adapted.
- b. Use established alfalfa plantings as demonstrations and location of same.
- c. Proper drainage before planting.
- d. Soil samples (recommendations of Agronomy Department from soil samples as to liming and fertilizing.)
- e. Proper preparation of seed bed.
- f. Adapted varieties to plant.
- g. Inoculation.
- h. Time, rate and method of seeding.
- i. Harvesting and curing.
- j. Care of stand.

A large number of our farmers are part time farmers who work in the mines and other industries part time and farm the remaining. The farmers in the county not only have an excellent market for their products in the county but also in the adjacent coalfields of Eastern Kentucky. We feel that the farmers in the county having such an excellent market are obtaining in most cases higher prices for their products. However, with good roads and more efficient truck transportation our farmers are meeting more competition with other farm products of the other states.

V. Project Activities

1. Agronomy

Since agronomy is the foundation of all agriculture we have tried to use it as a hub of a wheel in working in other projects of agriculture from it as spokes of a wheel. We feel that the Extension-Tennessee Valley Authority demonstration program, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Lonesome Pine Soil Conservation District have helped us more than any programs to put over the Extension agronomy program to our farmers.

In 1961 we assisted 11,224 farmers and others in carrying out some type of proper land use practices; 475 farmers and others in carrying out contour and strip cropping practices; 302 farmers and others in grassing waterways; 610 farmers and others in water supply, storage and distribution; 590 farmers and others in land drainage; 11,455 farmers and others in correct use of commercial fertilizer; 768 farmers and others in soil improvement crops; 670 farmers and others in crop rotations; 36 farmers and others in land clearing operations.

In 1961 there were approximately 61,215 tons of commercial fertilizer and 13,046 tons of lime used as a result of the Agricultural Extension Service's recommendations.

Our experience has shown that the best way to decide the kinds and amounts of fertilizer and lime to be applied to a crop is to take soil samples of the field and send them to the Agronomy Department for analysis. Upon receiving analysis of the sample, we discuss it with the farmer and give him the Extension Agronomy's recommendations for the kind and amount of fertilizer and lime to use for this particular field and crop he wants to grow. This method of finding out the plant elements present and lacking in the soil has enabled us to give better recommendations from our agronomy handbook. We took 207 soil samples in the county this year and gave recommendations.

III. Brief Description of County Organization

The Agricultural Extension work in the county is an educational Service of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the United States Department of Agriculture with County Government cooperating. The four members of the Board of Supervisors are the governing body of the county.

The Wise County Extension staff consists of a county agent and secretary.

The County Agricultural Extension Service Board of twenty-two members was organized this year. They plan the over all Extension programs in the county.

We have six agricultural commodity committees with fifty-one members which make recommendations on their respective commodity to the County Agricultural Extension Service Board.

We have a 4-H Club Council consisting of one hundred members who are officers and leaders of the twenty-four 4-H Clubs. The duties of the 4-H Club Council are to plan the programs and activities of the 4-H Club work and to supervise the carrying out of these programs and activities within the county.

We have an adult 4-H Club committee of six members to advise and help with the 4-H Clubs in the county.

IV. Description of Types of Agriculture in Wise County

Wise County is considered an industrial county, mainly coal mining. However, there is a considerable amount of agriculture carried on within the county. The county has a population of 43,579, and we are trying to raise as many and much of the agricultural products that are adapted to the county to meet the food needs. The main types of agriculture we find adapted to our soils and climate are numerous vegetables, apples, strawberries, raspberries, dairy products, beef cattle, hogs, poultry and most of the agronomy crops.

We have an average rainfall of 58 inches which is normally well distributed during the year which makes our county very suitable to any crop production suited to our climatic conditions.

The 1960 census report shows there are 598 farms with an average size of 54.5 acres. The county agent regrets very much to say that the 1960 agricultural census for Wise County is incorrect as the enumerators did not complete the county before the time they had to turn in their reports.

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

J. L. MCCORMICK, JR.

Name

COUNTY

Agent

Title

-

Assistant Agent

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Assistant Agent

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Assistant Agent



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County