

Industry Division, Livestock Grading Section, and Animal Industry Division.

The agent and the County Welfare Department have had excellent relations in problems of mutual interest, as have member of the Employment Service Commission.

The Superintendent of County Schools and member of the County School Board have been most cooperative and helpful in various programs, especially in 4-H Club work.

Local banks have made valuable contributions. Among many services rendered, the agent is grateful for being their guest at the annual Agricultural Credit Conference at Natural Bridge.

Civic Clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, general farm organizations, commodity groups, and others have contributed fully, and their cooperation is deeply appreciated.

V. TRENDS

Peanut Harvesting. Approximately 15 percent of the 1960 peanut crop (14,900 acres) were mechanically harvested; this figure jumped to at least 30 percent in 1961. It will likely be 50 percent in 1962 and by 1965 up to 70 percent, or more. All this is due to increasing labor costs in harvesting.

Hogs. The price-cycle of market hogs will affect the eventual rise in hog numbers, of course. But it looks like the county's hog producers are gearing for a livestock economy, figured to add an additional \$1 million increase per year in gross sales ten years from now over the 1954-59 base of about \$1.75 to \$2 million annually.

500 lambs at prices higher than could be gotten on local markets.

A custom sheep-shearer was obtained and a schedule set up for him with the county's sheep growers. While it took about four days of the assistant agent's time in keeping the shearer on schedule, it proved profitable, since the assistant agent also taught the growers in the tying and preparation of the fleeces for market.

F. Other

Through newsletters, press, radio, meetings, and personal contacts, other activities were stressed, including insect control on cotton; varieties and fertilization of flue-cured tobacco; varieties, fertilization, and rates of seeding small grain. Also, providing information requested on various problems with ornamentals, lawns, orchards, and lately, on farm records and farm management and analysis. The latter - - records and management-analysis - - will likely become an increasing field of responsibility and of time-allotment.

The Peanut Soil Conservation District is considered here as apart from "Other Agencies and Organizations" since the agent is a member of the Board of the District, and also secretary. Composed of elected Board members from three counties (Nansemond, Isle of Wight and Surry), with the agent appointed (by law), the District has, over the years, developed into one of the most progressive districts in Virginia. Chairman E. L. Felton deserves much of the credit for it's progress and the plans underway for even greater achievements.

IV. OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The agent met frequently with the ASCS committeemen on problems and plans dealing with ACP practices. Also, in educational work (meetings, newsletters, news articles, and personal contacts) dealing with the 1961 Feed Grain Program of the ASCS.

Conferences were held with the Virginia Forest Service personnel on mutual problems and their assistance and cooperation has been most helpful.

Likewise the Soil Conservation personnel, who have been most cooperative on those numerous cases of mutual interest, as have the Farmers Home Administration and Production Credit Association.

Virginia Department of Agriculture folks have been of invaluable service, including those from Marketing and News Service, Plant

Two Nansemond boys were tapped into the 4-H All Star organization. They were Ed Horsley, Jr., and Edgar Ray Savage.

III. MINOR ACTIVITIES

A. Pastures and Cover Crops

Tools used to stress need for more and better pastures and cover crops were newsletters, news articles, meetings, soil tests, and personal contacts. The early harvesting (through mechanization) of about a third of the county's peanut crop aided in getting an increase in cover crops. A little over 100 farmers were advised in liming and fertilizing permanent pasture (either existing, or to be seeded) through use of soil tests.

B. Soybeans

Primarily, work centered on insect control, varieties, fertilization, and rate and date of planting. Insect control has been covered in a previous section. Meanwhile, newsletters, news articles, radio meetings, and personal contacts were used to disseminate the other information. In addition, through soil tests, over 150 farmers were advised on liming and fertilization.

C. Federal Crop Insurance

Nansemond is one of two peanut counties to be used on a pilot basis for crop insurance on peanuts (and corn and soybeans) in 1962. Work on this has been mostly in attending several conferences, and in planning with individuals for educational work to be done in 1962.

D. Soybean Cyst Nematode

Nansemond had nearly 300 farms quarantined with this pest and on which certain regulations on movement of machinery and equipment from farm to farm and of crops to market must be met. Lack of understanding on the part of some producers affected by the quarantine necessitated sending out several newsletters and holding two meetings to explain reason for the regulations. It is believed that these efforts were highly successful.

E. Sheep

Emphasis was on lamb and wool marketing. Agent cooperated in a multiple-county wool pool (5,000 pounds from Nansemond sold) and in three lamb pool sales, in which Nansemond sold approximately

held on March 18, 1961. Edgar Ray Savage pigs did not reach market weight, but he showed Ed Horsley's, as Ed could not be there, and won the Fitting and Showing Contest. Billy Savage, a Nansemond 4-Her showed the Grand Champion single which sold to the Smithfield Packing Company for \$1.50 per pound. This was the second straight year Nansemond has shown the Grand Champion.

h. Nansemond-Southampton Junior Steer Show

Eleven steers were entered in this year's show, seven of them by Nansemond boys. The show was held at Peanut Park in Suffolk. Quality of this small show was outstanding, as 4 calves graded Prime and the other 7 graded Choice. All calves were well broken and handled well throughout the show.

Jarvis Howell, Jr., a Nansemond boy, showed the Grand Champion, a 1010 pound, Black Angus, which sold for 40¢ per pound to Colonial Stores. The Fitting Contest was won by Steve Bryant, of Southampton, and the Showmanship Contest by Donald Horsley, of Nansemond.

As of this time eleven steers are on feed in this county, but none are being fed in Southampton. Plans are to hold the show in Suffolk again this year with only Nansemond boys participating. The show will be open again to Southampton boys next year.

5. Achievements

Nansemond County was well represented in all area, county, district, state and national events and awards programs.

Ed Horsley, Jr. was State Swine winner and received a trip to the National 4-H Congress. In addition to entering the National Swine Competition, Ed asked to be considered for the Alpha Gamma Rho \$200 scholarship and won it.

Fred Allen Bunch was District Winner in the Field Crops Achievement Record Competition and received a \$50 Savings Bond.

Gary Williams was District Winner in the Electric Achievement Program receiving a 19 Jewel wrist watch.

This county had the winning District Livestock Judging Team, with one of it's members, Donald Horsley, being high individual in the contest.

county agent) from Nansemond.

At the Congress, Ed Horsley, Jr. was announced winner of the first Alpha Gamma Rho scholarship.

b. State 4-H Short Course

In 1961 Nansemond had one of it's largest groups of boys attend State Short Course. Fred Bunch and Gary Williams attended as the two county delegates; Edgar R. Savage, Billy Savage, Donald Horsley, and Buddy Joyner attended to compete in the Livestock Judging Contest; and Ed Horsley, Jr. attended as State Swine winner. The Judging Team placed 12th.

c. Conservation Camp

Nansemond filled it's quota of four to attend Conservation Camp at Camp Farrar, Virginia Beach. Ed Horsley, Jr. and Edgar Savage were boys attending.

d. Senior 4-H Camp

Nansemond also sent one of it's largest delegation to Senior Camp. Five boys and two girls attended. Boys attending were: Edgar Savage, Billy Savage, W. G. Taylor, Tommy Taylor, and David Joyner. A class given on assembling achievement records was a drawing card. The members returned enthused about this class and their tour of the Naval Air Station.

e. District 4-H Camp

The county had 45 4-Hers to attend district camp, of which 17 were boys. Five adult and two junior leaders served as counselors for the group. This was excellent representation, as about 20% of total enrollment attended.

f. County 4-H Picnic

The county picnic was originally scheduled for June 15 at Planters Club, but stormy weather caused it to be postponed. Another date was finally set and the picnic was held on August 26 at the Suffolk Swimming Pool. About 100 4-Hers and parents brought picnic suppers and participated in a swimming party.

g. Smithfield Market Hog Show

Ten Nansemond boys fed 46 hogs for the Smithfield Show

Contest.

Two adult leaders, Mr. Ed Horsley and Mr. Edgar Savage, helped greatly with the program. 14 boys took the project, and 11 of these competed in the county driving contest. Ed Horsley, Jr. won in the senior division, but two days before the District Contest, word was received that Ed was the State Swine Achievement winner. It was too late to substitute, so Ed was not allowed to win in the District Contest, although he did place very high. Billy Bunch won in the county junior division.

3. County 4-H Organizations

a. County 4-H Council

County Council officers this year were: President- Jo Anne Joyner; Vice-president- Fred Allen Bunch; and Secretary- Earleen Byrum.

The council elected officers at it's fall meeting and had officer training at that time. The group initiated and built a Float which placed first in the 1960 Suffolk Christmas Parade. The Council financed transportation expenses of all junior campers and State Short Course delegates.

b. 4-H Honor Club

A 4-H Honor Club was organized for the first time in Nansemond this fall. There were 13 charter members selected by extension agents. In the future new members will be determined by the club members. Officers of the charter club are: President- Ed Horsley, Jr.; Vice-president- Nancy Bunch; Secretary - Jo Ann Joyner; Treasurer- Tommy Taylor; Reporter - Carolyn Hingerty.

The Honor Club will take over several of the county-wide responsibilities that previously have been done by the County Council. The group sponsored a money-making dance to help with adult leaders expenses to Natural Bridge, and sponsored a Float in the Suffolk Christmas Parade, which placed third. Another goal of the club is to improve the County 4-H Road Signs.

4. County, State, and Other Events

a. National 4-H Club Congress

The 1961 Club Congress was attended by Ed Horsley, Jr., (State 4-H Swine winner), and Bob M. Coggsdale (assistant

Tractor Maintenance. There were 4 corn, 5 peanut, 2 soybean, 5 sweet potatoes, 6 garden, 6 soil and water conservation, 8 forestry, 9 wildlife, 6 poultry, 2 dairy, 7 beef, 19 swine, 1 pony, 13 tractor, 104 electric, 2 home grounds beautification, 2 health, and 2 junior leadership projects taken.

b. Club Projects

All clubs were given the opportunity to take a club project. All junior clubs took Electric I, which made it possible for training in this project to be thorough. Monthly topics were: The Use of Electricity; Fuses and Safety; Cord Repair; Proper Lighting; and Electric Equipment Care. During the spring all members were invited to go on a tour of a power plant at Roanoke Rapids, N. C. Attendance was good.

c. Project Workshops

The Electric Workshop was successful again this year, with 13 boys, plus as many girls being enrolled. Meetings were held once a month with topics being discussed by Power Company people. Older members were given some part on programs and were given opportunities to give demonstrations.

Most electric workshop members attended a tour of the hydro-electric plant at Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, on April 3, 1961. Local leaders furnished transportation and the group carried a picnic lunch.

The workshop group prepared exhibits for the Safety Conference in Norfolk; and a Red Ribbon exhibit for the Electric Congress in Richmond.

Donald Horsley and Carolyn Williams represented Nansmond at the Electric Congress in Richmond as county winners. Both received portable radios from a local power supplier at Achievement Day.

Nansmond 4-Hers received both of the District Electric Achievement Awards this year. Gary Williams and Carolyn Hingerty each received 19 Jewel wrist watches for their achievements.

A Tractor Maintenance workshop was conducted during late winter and early spring. Eight meetings were held at 8 different tractor dealers and equipment manufacturers. The host furnished very capable instructors and also furnished new tractors for the County Tractor Driving

Extension Youth Program. Increased emphasis on education, and increased number of students has made time and space in schools in this area less desirable for club work. In this county, the feeling is that 4-H Clubs should operate independently from school because (1) time and space in schools is becoming more limited; (2) community clubs give youth a better feeling of belonging; (3) local people can better help determine needs, problems, and aid with decisions of community clubs; (4) community clubs allow adult leaders to use initiative, and have a bigger part in club activities and training; allowing agents more time for leader training; (5) community clubs provide incentive for local leadership. Because of these advantages it is felt that the 4-H Program has more growth potential on community club basis.

All clubs in the county have been changed to community basis at the beginning of a new club year. So far numbers are small, but quality of work is improving and over a period of time it is believed club and member numbers will exceed any past record.

121 boys enrolled in 204 projects, with tremendous participation in events and activities this year. Some parts of this county are strictly urban, with many of the 4-Hers parents being military and other non-permanent residence people. Due to this fact some members were lost during the club year because of members moving from the county.

Adult leadership is increasing steadily with four (4) clubs now being conducted by adult leaders. Two men leaders are in charge of the 4-H Tractor Program. The agents are increasing adult leader training, and have encouraged attendance at the Leaders' Conference at Natural Bridge. Junior leaders are now getting more opportunities to use their talents. The aim is to have a junior leader take part in every program.

2. Project Work

a. General

Ten of the 121 boys moved or dropped their projects; of the 111 boys ending the club year, 70 completed projects which is a much better record than in the past couple of years. All junior clubs took Electricity I as a club project. Members were also allowed to take other projects free-choice, as did all senior groups.

It was required that some projects be taken only in workshop groups. These were: Electricity Unit II; and

aided greatly by extension and research swine specialists. Newsletters have been regularly employed. So have special events, such as meetings and tours.

Some progress has been made, both in feeding facilities and in nutrition and economics of feeding. Six new feeding floors have been constructed; other existing facilities have been improved and enlarged. More producers are aware of the economics in balancing the ration to fit particular weight-groups of hogs and in sources of obtaining purchased supplements.

Educational work has been largely in the field of personal contacts, tours, meetings, and newsletters. Extension swine specialists have lent the program a firm guiding hand and have been of inestimable value.

3. Breeding Stock

Aside from adequate farrowing facilities and pig production in general (considered in II, B, 1), there is a need for improvement in sows and boars on those farms already having breeding stock. Perhaps half of the boars and breeding females now on farms in the county need replacing with animals of better quality, conformation, etc.

Educational work has been confined mostly to farm visits, meetings, and newsletters, plus cooperation with the several purebred sales held in the area. Extension specialists, plus the swine marketing agent of the Virginia Department of Agriculture, have been of great assistance.

Approximately 50 farmers have been aided in obtaining better boars and/or breeding gilts. At least 20 have been assisted in "culling" the breeding herd so as to eliminate those animals considered undesirable for breeding purposes.

C. 4-H Club Work

1. General Information

During the club year 1960-61, there were 121 boys enrolled in 3 senior and 7 junior 4-H Clubs in the county. Four (4) junior clubs met in schools during school hours. Three (3) junior and 3 senior clubs met during out-of-school hours. The out-of-school clubs met in school lunch rooms, community houses, and in homes. All clubs were mixed groups of boys and girls and were worked with jointly by the assistant county agent and the assistant home demonstration agent.

In-school 4-H Clubs in the past have added greatly to the

B. Hogs

1. Pig Production and Marketing

Lack of facilities, proper management, and enthusiasm to gear more good breeding stock to increased pig production constitutes the key bottle-neck to expansion of the hog industry in Nansemond County.

Demand for feeder pigs by farmers who have few or no breeding stock is substantial - - both during low and high hog-price cycles. Markets for good feeder pigs are abundant - - markets that are well organized, supervised and handled by recognized standards of quality, weight, and grade.

Meanwhile, markets locally for good quality slaughter hogs are equal to or superior to those found anywhere in the U. S.

Primary reason more feeder pigs are not produced is because it takes less time and labor to finish (or fatten) feeder pigs to market weight than it does to provide breeding stock, farrowing facilities, etc. and produce pigs up to weaning age.

Educational work centered largely around farm visits, meetings, tours, newsletters, etc., with the able guidance of extension swine specialists. Also, special events, such as barrow shows, Junior Market Hog Shows and Sales, and close cooperation with the several feeder pig sales held annually at Courtland helped to stimulate more thinking towards efficient production of feeder pigs.

Seven modern central farrowing houses have been constructed during 1961. Several more are in the planning stage. There is more interest in good breeding stock. Nansemond producers sold over 2,000 feeder pigs through the organized feeder pig sales and a considerable number through personal sales.

Over-all improvement and expansion of the hog industry will be, and should be, a slow process, however.

2. Nutrition

Feed generally accounts for 80 percent of the total cost of producing hogs. On most farms, feeding facilities are inadequate. Many others fail to balance nutrition and feed costs to market hog prices. These facts are weighed against some 45,000 - 50,000 head of market hogs sold annually.

Educational work has been mostly by farm visits and contacts,

taking and identifying samples properly were stressed at two county-wide meetings; in news articles and newsletters, plus innumerable personal contacts.

There was about a 15 percent increase in the number of samples handled through this office. Also, there were definite indications of more care being exercised on part of producers in taking and identifying samples properly. On all these tests (over 1,000 samples), agent studied the results and made specific lime and fertilizer recommendations.

4. Use of Herbicides

About 20 percent of the 15,000 acres of peanuts were chemically treated in 1960 to control weeds. Actually, 75 percent or more, of the total acreage could be profitably treated with herbicides to control weeds. Moreover, a considerable acreage of corn could probably be treated with chemicals although the comparatively low value per acre of this crop in relation to the cost of the newer and more effective herbicides leaves the matter to individual farmer decisions.

One county and three community meetings on herbicides were held. Seven field meetings were conducted, reaching in all a total of 250 farmers. Four news articles were written, and two circular letters sent all producers. A considerable number of farm visits were made.

Altogether, about 4,000 acres of peanuts were treated with herbicides in 1961 and for the most part effectively. There was an increase in the use of herbicides on corn but the extent of the increase cannot be reasonably calculated.

5. Varieties

Lack of sources of pure strains of various peanut varieties, plus producer dependence on "run-down" strains after years of use, poses an economic problem through lower yields. In other field crops, it is felt that farmers do a good job of selecting and using varieties adapted to their soils and seasons.

One news article and one circular letter to all peanut producers was the main educational media used. However, innumerable contacts were made with individual producers and for many of them sources of certified seed found.

Results cannot be evaluated yet. This is a long-range program that involves many groups, agencies, and educational media.

insecticides were ineffective; (2) newer chemicals were not tested long enough (one year) to meet research recommendation standards; (3) cost of the one new chemical approved by USDA for labelling on peanuts was over 5 times that of the previous chemical that was effective.

Damage caused by root worm on peanuts came to at least \$½ million dollars, affecting approximately 5,000 acres and ranging in yield-per-acre cut from 10 percent to 100 percent, and in price, due to lowered quality, from ½¢ per pound to 3¢ per pound. As noted, a number of acres were not harvested due to root worm.

Other pests include, as usual, leaf hoppers, leaf spot, stem rot and "pod" rot on peanuts. These were kept reasonably well under control or else did not show up extensively.

Also, corn ear worm and related insects on soybeans were kept reasonably well under control. Extent of damage by nematodes cannot be calculated though thought to be of a serious nature with promise of getting worse if not controlled.

All of these problems, with suggestions for containment or control were aired at a total of seven county and community meetings, attended by over 300 farmers. Also, a number of news articles on control measures were carried in the three daily newspapers serving the area. In addition to an annual field-crops newsletter to all farmers, several "alert" cards, based on field inspections, were sent producers, plus two circular letters to all peanut producers relative to root worm.

Net results of all this are difficult to evaluate. The methods used were effective in control of leaf hoppers and leaf spot. In root worm on peanuts, factors not under Research or Extension control prohibited an aggressive and affirmative educational program for control of the pest. Fortunately, those producers who used the newly approved insecticide and applied it according to label instructions got good to excellent control.

3. Soil Tests

More than half of our farmers fail to use soil tests as a guide for lime and plant food needs. Many using soil tests either fail to take the samples properly, or to identify them properly, or both.

Need for not only increased use of soil tests but also for

efforts and good advice lent a firm guiding hand to a new technological advance. Also, representatives of power firms, equipment dealers, etc., cooperated splendidly, as did the local peanut milling industry.

A one-day county school on mechanized harvesting (and curing) of peanuts (and corn) was held, with over 100 farmers attending. Extension agricultural engineers handled the technical phases of the program, which was held in the show room of a local equipment dealer, in cooperation with other local equipment and power supplier dealers.

Also, a two-day grain and peanut mechanical harvesting and curing show was held near Suffolk (county seat) for some 7 or 8 Southeast Virginia counties. It was sponsored by the Virginia Farm Electrification Council, and co-sponsored by the Extension Service, equipment dealers and power suppliers and others. Special praise should go to the over-all chairman, George Upchurch, agricultural engineer, of Virginia Electric and Power Company, Suffolk, and to the equipment dealers who were headed up in committee by Harry Leggett, of Nansemond Tractor Sales Corp., Suffolk.

Posters - - "Guides for Peanut Curing" - - were provided for distribution to producers. They were prepared by the Extension agricultural engineers and proved exceptionally useful and effective. A considerable number of them were requested for use by local peanut milling industries, power suppliers, equipment dealers, etc.

Much of the work on peanut curing involved farm visits, where extension agricultural engineers suggested (and often worked up) plans for buildings, etc. Cooperation of power suppliers and equipment folks was also most helpful - - in fact, they worked most cooperatively in all phases of the program.

Ideal harvesting and curing weather prevailed so that results of the over-all educational and technical services rendered cannot be properly evaluated. Had the weather been adverse, however, it is likely that all those who helped producers interested in mechanization would have seen their efforts well rewarded, and then some. Be it said **though** that efforts were not made to "promote" installation of curing units, etc. Efforts were made only to try to meet the needs of those producers who had made the decision to mechanize, or else provide data that would help them make a decision.

2. Pest Control

Southern corn root worm (on peanuts) was the most damaging pest by far on crops in 1961. Main reason was that (1) former

I. GENERAL SITUATION

Nansemond County's 998 farms of 121,379 acres average 121.6 acres each. It borders Norfolk County and Dismap Swamp on the east and North Carolina on the south, with approximately half the farm land in woodland and half in cropland and pasture.

Annual gross receipts from sale of farm products range from \$6½ to 8½ million, depending on weather, prices, etc.

Major farm enterprises are peanuts, hogs, corn, and soybeans. About 70 percent of the corn is fed to livestock on the farm.

Other enterprises include poultry (up considerably past 3 years), small grain, cotton, flue tobacco, commercial vegetables, sweet and Irish potatoes, beef cattle, dairying, grain sorghum, sheep and tree fruit.

Non-farm population increased in 1961 while farm population dropped. Total population set at 32,000.

Farm-to-market facilities are excellent, being served by 4 U. S. highways, 4 railroads, and a navigable waterway to Port of Hampton Roads.

Marketing outlets for major commodities - - peanuts, hogs, grain, soybeans, etc. - - are superb - - all encompassed within a 30-mile radius of the production area.

II. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

A. Crops

1. Mechanized Harvesting of Peanuts

Pressure of labor costs skyrocketed installation of mechanical harvesting facilities in 1961. About 15 percent of the county's 15,000 acres were combined and artificially cured in 1960, using 23 combines and 21 curing units, the latter varying considerably in capacity. In 1961, the number of combines and curing units more than doubled, with at least 30 percent of the crop being mechanically harvested.

It is a conservative guess at the present time that at least 50 percent of the peanut crop will be mechanically harvested in 1962.

Great assistance was rendered by the extension agricultural engineers, particularly A. J. Lambert, whose tireless

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

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1961

Nansemond

County