

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

Name

County **Agent**

Title



Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

State and County
Agency

1960 ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

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I. GENERAL COUNTY SITUATION

King and Queen is located on the northeast bank of the Mattaponi River. It is 71 miles long and averages 8 miles in width. King and Queen farmers must travel 35 to 50 miles to Richmond, the nearest city. There are no towns or industries in King and Queen. Most of the roads are substandard. There are two white high schools, one is accredited and both offer commercial and agricultural courses.

King and Queen has a total population of 6,299. There are 2,910 white and 3389 colored people. 68% is listed as rural farm and 32% as rural non-farm. There are no urban communities. There are in all 764 farms. 424 are listed as being operated by white farmers. The total land area is 203,520 acres and 77.2% of this is woodland.

Agriculture and wood products make up most of the income of the county. Many persons are employed in Richmond and at the pulp mill in West Point.

II. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Following is a list of the county organizations with which the county agent has cooperated in furthering the Extension program.

- County Board of Agriculture
- Farm and Home Advisory Committee
- Tidewater Guernsey Breeders Association
- Tidewater Soil Conservation District
- King and Queen ASC County Committee
- King and Queen Farm Bureau
- Marriott Young Farmers' Club
- King and Queen Forestry Club
- Norfolk Area Milk Producers Association
- King and Queen Ruritan Club
- Tappahannock Feeder Pig Association.

III. MAJOR PROJECTS

Farm and Home Development

1. Farm and Home Development work has been a part of the King and Queen Extension Program for six years. Farm income and living standards are low in many cases and farmers have difficulty in making needed adjustments fast enough. This approach has been effective in making Extension more helpful and they have been relying more heavily on the services available to them.
2. During 1960 the agent attempted to work more closely with key farmers to encourage them to make greater progress in making adjustments and to adopt more efficient management practices. The use of farm record books was stressed.
3. This was done through individual visits and circular letters. One farm tour was conducted.
4. Major results observed are:
 - a. Better facilities for handling livestock.
 - b. Better control of insects.
 - c. More grain stored on farms.
 - d. Better drying and handling facilities.
 - e. Improved breeding stock in hogs, beef and sheep.
5. The agent plans to continue this program and to put more emphasis on hog farrowing facilities.

Dairying

1. There are 5 grade A dairies in King and Queen. Approximately 10 farmers are raising replacement heifers and there is a cream route through the county. Many farmers buy vealers from the dairies to raise. Production per cow needs to be increased and the quality of the roughage fed is not always as high as it should be.
2. The committee felt that higher producing stock, better feeds and more satisfactory control of mastitis and breeding troubles were needed.
3. The agent conducted three Bangs vaccination tours, helped with mastitis checks and with milking procedure. Timely information on production of roughages and on control of insects and diseases was sent to the farmers. The veterinarian who vaccinated the heifers for Bangs was very helpful in counseling farmers on herd management, parasites, etc.
4. The agent feels that progress was made on all programs attempted. The Bangs tour was successful even though government assistance had been cut off. All King and Queen dairymen now have bulk tanks.
5. These seem to be sound programs and will be continued. Farmers who have replacement heifers to sell need to develop more effective means of attracting buyers to King and Queen.

Livestock

1. The production of livestock is becoming increasingly important in King and Queen. This is a surplus grain area, well watered with good markets within a reasonable distance. Farmers are slow to adopt new practices and try to make the old equipment last as long as possible.
2. The livestock committee recommended that major emphasis be placed on improving the sow and pig operations as that affected nearly every farm in King and Queen. Better sires were needed. Sheep growers needed better management of the breeding flock, parasite control and improved rams.
3. The agent assisted farmers in marketing pigs through the Tappahannock Feeder Pig Association and in buying breeding boars and gilts. Circular letters on parasite and cholera control were sent and demonstrations given in several communities. Sheep farmers were assisted in treating for internal parasites and in purchasing purebred rams.

Beef producers received individual assistance in purchasing cattle, feeding, parasite control and marketing.

4. Twenty farmers market feeder pigs through the Tappahannock Association. This has raised the price of feeder pigs throughout the county almost \$2 per head. The pigs produced by the gilts in the 4-H pig chain continue to be in demand by farmers.

Five purebred rams were purchased by King and Queen farmers and several have improved the management of the breeding flock to get early lambs.

One farmer has constructed a pit silo to feed his beef herd. The number of cattle on pasture has increased about 10% during the past year.

5. More work needs to be done on farrowing facilities, handling chutes and feeding facilities.

Poultry

1. There are 4 large commercial laying flocks in King and Queen and 2 commercial broiler producers. The raising of chickens is still a sideline on most farms. Lack of time and personnel, coupled with apathy of interest on the part of producers are the reasons why only a little work was done on poultry the past year.
2. The commercial poultrymen seemed to be keeping up with their methods. Improvement in brooding facilities was the greatest need coupled with sanitation.
3. Timely circular letters on brooding and sanitation were sent. The agent made a point of visiting the poultry houses and making suggestions for improvement during farm visits. Three turkey producers were assisted in sanitary management and disease control.
4. Farmers are slow to change their ways of raising chickens or to improve facilities until they "go commercial". Some progress in more discrimination in buying baby chicks, feeding and care has been made.
5. Soil and climate are favorable for poultry (both chickens and turkeys) in King and Queen. This is certainly a possibility for increasing income.

Forestry

1. Forest lands occupy 77% of the land area in King and Queen County. Most of it is owned by farmers who work it as part of their farming operation. A good part of it is owned by absentees, many of these are practicing improved forestry. The rest is commercially owned and operated.

The transition of farm land into timber has slowed down but only a small part of our timber acreage has been improved as it should be.

2. The forestry committee recommended that more attention be paid to the land already in timber to get desirable species established and to release young trees. Also to encourage the young people to take interest in forestry.
3. Farmers were encouraged to participate in the cost-share opportunities under the ASC. The Forestry Club served to give recognition to those who did the best work and to encourage all to improve the quality of the work done.

4-H Club members in the lower grades had a very successful Forest Appreciation project. Thirty-three club members set out 11,000 seedlings.

4. King and Queen again set out over a million pine seedlings, many of them in newly cut-over and released areas. Scarifying and planting was tried by 4 farmers and three are experimenting with direct seeding.

Thirty-two adult Forestry Club contestants reported 52 practices with 790 acres worked over. The judges noted an improvement in quality and surprisingly good survival in spite of the unfavorable conditions at planting time. The Sawmill and Logging Exposition at Crozet was well attended by King and Queen lumbermen. One sawmill is equipped with a debarker and chipper.

5. More sawmill operators should support the Forestry Club because they stand to benefit more from an improvement in timber quality. 4-H Club members need to carry practices other than setting.

Agronomy

1. Corn, soybeans, small grains, vegetables and tobacco are the principal cash crops grown in King and Queen. Forage crops and pastures are becoming increasingly important as livestock numbers increase. A large portion of the corn and soybeans is marketed during October and November.
2. Agronomy committee members urged that farmers be given more assistance in marketing and that more information be made available on drying and storing. Soybean and alfalfa insects were also a problem. Farmers need information on new varieties of sweet potatoes and tomatoes. Tobacco growers needed to fertilize more exactly based on crop history and soil analysis.
3. Farmers were urged by circular letters and visits while corn was half grown to plan their harvesting and marketing and to arrange for on-the-farm storage.

Information on varieties, seeding and culture of soybeans were sent out. Also a warning letter just prior to the corn earworm infestation with control information.

A demonstration planting of Copperkin Gold Bush and Centennial sweet potatoes was made and one farmer compared four varieties of early tomatoes.

Tobacco farmers were assisted in planning their fertilization programs, plant bed management and in insect control. One fertilization demonstration was conducted.

4. Much more corn is being retained on King and Queen farms for feeding and later marketing. Some 20 metal bins have been constructed, part for ear corn and part for shelled corn with drying equipment.

Soybean growers got good control of the corn earworm by spraying with ground equipment. The supply of 25% DDT emulsion gave out and some growers tried 50% wettable DDT powder with good results and a decrease in cost.

Alfalfa growers were kept informed of the latest in weevil control. So far only one field has been plowed up.

Farmers were reminded of timely practices in forage and pasture production.

Both varieties of sweet potatoes showed an improvement over the variety being planted. The percentage of No. 1 potatoes was especially encouraging.

Tobacco in the barns shows improvement both in yield and quality. Many farmers were impressed by the services of Extension available to them through this program.

5. Farmers have asked for more information on the production of soybeans, varieties, planting dates, quantity, spacing, etc. More work needs to be done on weed and insect control. Schools on grain marketing, varieties and spraying are planned for 1961.

4-H Club Work

1. 4-H Club work is very popular in the 5th, 6th and 7th grades. Clubs are co-educational, organized by grades and meet in the classroom during school time. Crowded conditions in the high school, and full schedules interfere with 4-H Club work in the high school grades. King and Queen is long, narrow and sparsely settled. Transportation is a problem in conducting community clubs.
2. Efforts were made to develop a 4-H program that would interest and meet the needs of all age groups. Forest appreciation and forest establishment projects were offered, the 4-H Pig Chain was continued and members were encouraged to expand their range of interests.

Teachers were involved in organizing and planning for the clubs in their classes.

A County Achievement Day was held as well as Share-the-Fun and county contests.

King and Queen 4-H Club members participated in fairs at Warsaw and Richmond.

King and Queen Club members attended the Conservation Camp, Senior Camp and District Camp.

3. Clubs were organized in all the schools in the county. One high school club and several small community clubs (girls) were organized. The presence of a Home Demonstration Agent in the county strengthened the program. Monthly meetings were held with programs planned by the club officers. Club members were encouraged to participate in all county, state and district contests and affairs.
4. a. Enrollment and re-enrollment of students in the three upper elementary grades was at an optimum level. The existing high school club showed very satisfactory growth and a club has been organized in the remaining high school.
b. The pig chain had another good year with 12 gilts placed for breeding in the county.
c. Thirty-two boys and girls set out over 11,000 pine seedlings. The Forest Appreciation project stimulated much interest.

A collection of record books took first prize at the District meet.

- d. Successful County Achievement, Share-the-Fun and County Contest meetings were held.
 - e. Three additional members procured purebred heifers and participated in the Warsaw Fair. King and Queen Club members did well. Eleven animals were shown at the Richmond Fair and several championships won. William Davis Carlton took two of his animals to the National Dairy Show at Waterloo.
 - f. Attendance at 4-H Camps showed a 20% increase over last year.
 - g. King and Queen Club members participated in District Public Speaking and Demonstration Contests.
 - h. New senior projects were introduced to high school club members this fall
5. Programs which will fill the needs of older club members will be offered. Greater use of adult leaders and more participation in county and out of the county activities is being planned.

IV. MINOR PROJECTS

Orchard and Small Fruits

Local fruit growers attended the district fruit school. One large orchardist was assisted in selecting varieties, locating and setting out an additional orchard. Several small growers were assisted in orchard establishment and management.

Home Garden

The monthly garden letter is sent to some 250 farmers and is well received. The Agent encourages year-round vegetable and small fruit gardens in farm visits.

Landscape Notes are appreciated by those who receive them.

One Extension Activity

The rapid increase in the use of combines and field shellers for harvesting corn made it possible for King and Queen farmers to market their corn earlier and with less labor.

With these "blessings" came problems:

1. Large quantities of wet corn on the market in the fall depressed prices.
2. Some farmers were paying too much for harvesting and hauling.
3. Shelled corn was hard to keep into the spring months.
4. There were practically no mechanical drying facilities on the farms.
5. Too much corn was sold out of the county, leaving little for feeding.

The agent's goal was to furnish each farmer with the information necessary for him to determine the methods of marketing his corn which would net him the greatest income. This is one of those rapidly changing fields requiring close attention over a long time.

A letter was sent to all farmers just as they were making the final cultivation of early planted corn. The agent wrote in effect; "You have a fine crop of corn. You fertilized it well and cultivated it carefully but you are only half through. Marketing is just as important as all you have already done. Don't give your corn away."

Farmers were advised to consider harvesting corn with livestock, ear corn storage and feeding, shelled corn storage and feeding as well as marketing direct from the field.

This was followed up with information on the construction and use of mechanical drying facilities and metal cribs. Farm visits were especially helpful in providing farmers with the information needed.

The agent has pictures and cost records of various structures being used in the county to use in future programs. King and Queen farmers plan to join those of other counties in a grain handling school this winter.

This program has resulted in improved grain storage facilities on 12 or more farms. More care was taken in harvesting and hogs have been used to rogue the fields. There is an increase in the amount of livestock on feed in the county and the agent thinks that King and Queen farmers will realize more money from this corn crop than they did the '59 crop.