

Worked with many yearling steer producers on figuring the advisability of purchasing feeder calves at present cost.

Should have five farmers completing on the VPI mail-in farm record program.

Incorporated farm management principles in everyday work with farmers in county.

FARM MANAGEMENT

by

W. R. Owings, Assistant Agent

Developed a complete farm management program including detailed enterprise cost account on 900 acre livestock farm. This resulted in gradual shift toward purchasing more lightweight feeder calves to supplement home raised calves for yearlings, and to make fuller utilization of corn production potential which should over the years increase net income. One of the byproducts was to cut feeding time in half by low cost labor-saving equipment.

Worked with young Grade A dairy farmer where the size of operation has increased much more rapidly than the operator's present managerial ability. Detailed crop enterprises had been worked out previously and with the able guidance of our soil survey leader, John Elder, cropping systems were suggested to correlate with soil type and fertilization rates recommended for expected yields in accordance with soil type.

Worked out detailed enterprise costs at the request of two Madison farmers to (1) determine the net return on 94 yearlings purchased as calves in the fall of 1960 and sold in the '61 sale, (2) advice on feasibility of purchasing steers in the spring of '62 to summer on rented pasture and sell in '62 sale. After working through expected cost and return, farmer decided against it.

Worked with one commercial egg producer in reducing cost on his 7000 layers. He is now planning to set up a home grinding and mixing unit for his laying ration. Annual savings due to home grinding and mixing should range from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

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72

4-H HIKE - Sunday, October 22, twenty-three 4-H club members and parents climbed scenic Old Rag Mountain. Mason Hutcheson, assistant county agent in Culpeper, conducted worship service.

RURAL YOUTH SUNDAY held second Sunday in May in the oak grove at Brightwood Primitive Baptist Church. Good participation and well attended.

Seven of the 14 boys enrolled in the Garden project completed; one completed the Corn project - two enrolled.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Senior 4-H clubs had Christmas Party at the Grange Hall in December. Also sponsored Heart Fund Drive and by March had collected more than the \$500.00 county quota.

Attempting a new approach to keep interest high in the senior clubs, each of the three clubs alternated as host to the others for the summer months. Typical programs included swimming, business meeting, a report on 4-H accomplishments by the outstanding boy and girl. Club members entering the 8th grade this year were also invited and many attended.

Stephen Lohr was one of the district winners in the Entomology project. His entomology display won first place at the Culpeper Farm Show and he has also made a collection of common insect pests and their life cycles for display in the county agent's office.

Picnic for senior club members held at Colonial Beach. "Hayride" transportation provided by H. R. Faulk, club leader.

INTERSTATE 4-H MASSACHUSETTS DELEGATES - Two girls and four boys visited in the county. Host families thoroughly enjoyed having them: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tappy, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Finks, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Lohr, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Tanner, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Faulk, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Berrey.

DISTRICT ALL STAR CAMP attended by 4 Madison County All Stars, one invited guest from Holland, and the agent. General consensus of opinion, "One of the very best 4-H activities I have had the opportunity to attend."

### POULTRY

At the beginning of the year, with the discontinuance of the Junior Broiler Contest, only one boy, Spike Franceschini, was enrolled in this project. We now have three enrolled in the Laying Project with good prospects for a fourth. Spike Franceschini is participating in the State Egg Laying Contest which will be completed in 1962.

### BEEKEEPING

In order to provide a project for boys and girls with special interests 10 members were enrolled in Beekeeping with 8 completions. Five 4-H'ers attended the State Beekeepers meeting in February. In March all the project were visited and new colonies introduced. On March 7, John Amos and Pastor T. A. Graves conducted an educational meeting in beekeeping for interested members. In April, Mr. Amos and Pastor Graves, the 4-H'ers concerned, and the agent inspected the projects. That night following the tour, 40 members and adult beekeepers attended the meeting conducted by John Amos. Beekeeping School for 4-H'ers held July 9 at Grover Berry's observing his method of removing honey, and half day at Pastor Graves' learning how to extract and process honey.

### FORESTRY

Economic value of forest products to our county and the desirability of making tree plantings stressed. Six acres loblolly and white pines planted by 3 members enrolled.

### CROPS

Need to devote more time and attention to these projects and to develop an understanding of how crops tie in with livestock endeavors.

Local 4-H'ers participated in the Black and White Dairy Show, the Brown Swiss Show, and all twelve of the dairy club members entered animals in the Northern Virginia Dairy Show. Judy Mahanes showed the Grand Champion Brown Swiss; Robert Franceschini and Ronnie Boyd also had heifers that placed well.

SHEEP - No sheep projects in the county this year.

LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM

Placed 3rd in district and 3rd in state competition. Practice workouts at Zeuswyn Farm, Gilnockie, A. M. Montgomery's, two Livestock Judging Schools, Shen-Valley Weigh Station, Still House Hollow Farm, and Shen-Valley Packing Plant.

SOILS

The group project for 4th, 5th, and 6th grades is set up on a rotating basis of Forestry Appreciation, Wildlife Appreciation, and Understanding Madison County Soils. Using this system, Soils was the group project for 1961. Total enrolled 134.

In order to increase 4-H'ers knowledge of the world in which they live and to develop an elementary awareness of the differences of Madison County Soils and Their Uses, 134 boys enrolled with 124 completing.

Soil monoliths and miniature soil profiles taken during the Soils School were used as teaching aids. John Elder, Soil Scientist, with the assistance of the agent, took each junior club on a tour pointing out the principal soils in the area and how knowledge of different soils and their use could be of practical value.

SEARS PIG CHAIN - The Sears Pig Chain came through the severe winter in good shape with all five of the sows raising profitable sized litters of good thrifty pigs. Project judged twice: Fall - Mason Hutcheson, Assistant County Agent, Culpeper; Spring - Austin Shepherd, Assistant County Agent, Orange. Placings as follows:

- 1st - Ronnie Aylor
- 2nd - David Aylor
- 3rd - Delmar Aylor
- 4th - Steve Aylor
- 5th - Jim Utz

TOUR - Out of county tour of modern swine production operations May 12. Those enrolled in the Brood Sow project were excused from school to observe modern farrowing and hog parlor operations. Agent was assisted in providing transportation by one of the local feed representatives.

DAIRY

Ten completed the Dairy Calf and Heifer project. Madison 4-H Dairy Club organized March 24 with 28 boys, girls, parents, and Grade A dairymen present. Bill Patterson, Extension Dairy Husbandman, assisted in starting the club off on the right track. With the assistance of adult leaders, heifers were selected and placed with all of the 4-H'ers involved. Many of the dairy club members attended the Ayrshire Field Day at Laneway Farm in April.

John Garber and Paul Kipps assisted in visiting the dairy projects on June 13, and presented an excellent demonstration on Fitting and Showing the Dairy Heifer at the Dairy Club meeting June 16.

CHARLOTTESVILLE AREA BABY BEEF SHOW AND SALE - Madison 4-H'er placed as follows:

Grand Champion Steer shown by Mary T. Graves

Reserve Champion - Billy Price

Grand Champion County Group of Three - Mary T. Graves, Billy Price,  
and Ronnie Boyd

This was the 5th consecutive year that Madison won the champion county group of three steers and the coveted trip (this year to the Dixie-land Classics in Winston-Salem, North Carolina) that goes with this award.

CULPEPER FARM SHOW - Ten year old Walter Tucker's home raised steer placed 2nd in the heavyweight Angus class.

OTHER BEEF PROJECTS - Five boys with 12 animals completed the Market Steer project. Three boys completed the Beef Herd project and two completed the Heifer project. They were assisted in project management through individual visits and project meetings. As a direct result of his 4-H club work, Russell Tanner has enrolled his herd in the BCIA.

SWINE

BROOD SOW AND MARKET HOG PROJECTS - 13 enrolled, 9 completed the Brood Sow project; 21 enrolled, 17 completed the Market Hog project with a total of 81 hogs.

RICHMOND JUNIOR SPRING LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE - Hunter Weaver's Hampshires placed 1st and 3rd in the 180-200 pound U. S. No. 1 class. Bobby Finks' crossbreds placed 2nd and 4th in the 200-220 pound class.

ORANGE AREA HOG SHOW - 18 Madison 4-H'ers entered 58 hogs and even though they won several of the classes we had to concede defeat to Orange County.

PROJECT WORK

Madison 4-H'ers enrolled in 15 different projects. The leading livestock projects are centered around Beef, Swine, and Dairy Production.

Methods and Results

BEEF

Nineteen 4-H'ers fed out and exhibited 23 baby beeves and were trained in proper management, feeding, fitting and showing, through:

- (1) Individual visits.
- (2) Tour (including 4-H'ers and parents) and judging of project management by Arden Huff, 4-H Livestock Specialist, on December 23. Incentive prize of 400 pounds of feed donated by local feed dealer.
- (3) Baby Beef Club meetings.
- (4) Field Day in March - Demonstration on Fitting and Showing by Harvey Cornwell, Manager, Zeuswyn Farm.
- (5) Madison County Baby Beef Show sponsored by local Jaycees on March 25. Judged by Charlie Cooper and Austin Shepherd. Over 300 spectators and \$250.00 in prize money.

RICHMOND JUNIOR SPRING LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE, April 12 - The

arrival of the Madison County entries to this show which is open to more than half the counties in the State created quite a commotion as all of the entries, including the boys, came down in one tractor trailer. When the trailer gates were opened, out tumbled the boys, followed by the hogs and then the steers!

Grand Champion Steer - 885 pound Angus shown by Frank Graves. Other Madison placings of note: Lightweight Angus - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th  
Heavyweight Angus - 2nd  
Heavyweight Hereford - 3rd and 4th

COUNTY COUNCIL

The County Council held its regular spring and fall meetings for the purpose of electing and training officers, establishing goals, and reports.

Sponsored 4-H Yearbook.

Have not had Achievement program.

No countywide picnic.

Sent delegate to 4-H camp.

NATIONAL 4-H CLUB WEEK ACTIVITIES

March 18 - Half hour program over WJMA Radio, Orange, Virginia.

March 23 - Share-the-Fun Contest - 350 in attendance.

March 24 - Special 4-H edition of local newspaper, Madison County Eagle.

Senior 4-H Dance - 80 present.

Organized 4-H Dairy Club.

March 25 - Madison County Baby Beef Show

DISTRICT CAMP

Attending Holiday Lake 4-H Camp were 30 boys, 2 junior leaders, and Frank Tourond, adult leader. Mr. Tourond who is blessed with an untiring constitution and rare insight in understanding boys is the most outstanding camp leader with whom this agent has ever had the opportunity of working.

The agent with the able assistance of junior leaders Gordon Lohr and David Yowell taught a full week course in "Camping."

SHORT COURSE

Six boys attended 4-H Short Course at VPI. Hunter Weaver and Russell Tanner were accepted by the State All Star Chapter.

This has also resulted in an increase in enrollment at a time when the county population remained constant.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Boys Enrollment</u>	<u>Number Clubs</u>
November, 1959	134	9
November, 1960	170	11
November, 1961	191	14

Member Completion - 88%

Project Completion - 84%

#### LEADERSHIP

Progressing from two adult (men) leaders in 1958 we now have:

ASSISTING IN MANY 4-H ACTIVITIES: Hoy R. Faulk and Frank Tourond

BABY BEEF: Elvin Graves, Jr., J. William Price, Jr., Mrs. Thornton Berry, Culton Goodall, Bill Boyd

DAIRY: Paul Kipps, John Garber, A. Martin Macy, J. T. Williamson, Ralph Thurber

BEEKEEPING: Pastor T. A. Graves

POULTRY (Layers): Robert Paul "Spike" Franceschini  
Junior Leader

#### HONOR CLUB

Annual initiation banquet in January with Pastor T. A. Graves guest speaker. Sixty members and invited guests present.

Sponsored Rural Youth Sunday second Sunday in May in the oak grove at Brightwood Primitive Baptist Church.

Sponsored observance of National 4-H Club Week.

Held two business meetings and social.

#### 4-H CLUB WORK

Situation - There are 11 organized 4-H clubs in Madison County with an enrollment of 166 boys. The 8 junior clubs meet monthly during school hours and the 3 senior clubs meet monthly in the homes of various club members. Other special interest clubs that are well attended by both 4-H'ers and adults include: Baby Beef, Dairy, Beekeeping.

The 4-H County Council, Honor Club, and Advisory Committees serve as the "backbone" of the county program.

Goal - Assist in the development of boys and girls into useful and desirable citizens. Work with the Advisory Committee in tailoring the 4-H club program to fit the needs of Madison County. Break down the number of boys in club meeting into smaller groups so that the educational program can be more effective. Increase completions to 80 per cent.

#### Methods and Results

Madison is primarily a rural county with the principal source of income derived from agriculture and forestry. Taking this into consideration the 4-H Advisory Committee agreed that the main emphasis should be on 4-H projects that correspond with the major agricultural enterprises in the county.

Over the past three years, in cooperation with school officials, the 4-H educational program has been made more effective by:

- (1) Improving place of meeting.
- (2) More advanced planning of project work.
- (3) Breaking clubs down into smaller groups.

#### EVALUATION OF YEAR'S WORK

A trend started here last year developed into a real image this year. Farmers who once asked only for help on a given segment of operation now want, and expect, an analysis of his full operation.

Although this is true, we still get the individual and group requests on anything from hydroponics to emceeding the fire company banquet. All of which means in order to get the total job done we must make full use of such old standbys as demonstrations, newspaper and radio media, key leaders, and farm and home visits.

The mere holding of a critique on our Extension endeavors of 1961 bring a sense of pride as well as a bit of disappointment. We know our efforts in Forestry are far from adequate considering at least 500 people make most of their living from it. We must make a fuller use of the soil survey information on hand. More time is needed for the overall field of farm management.

On the "plus" side we can list an excellent beginning in Public Policy, Poultry, and the continued good work in 4-H, overall Marketing, increased use of "quality" Silage and Hay, and Public Relations.

We are proud too of our office "headquarters" for our farm and town people, fieldmen for industry, and all others interested in a more prosperous and pleasant Madison County.

meetings held, they seem to enjoy these meetings where more basic material is presented.

K. SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Agents here are often called upon to emcee or speak on a variety of subjects. We find this to be public relations at its best.

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G. "LEPTO" MEETING

From spot tests over entire county it was found that "lepto" was a definite problem. In order to get the true story over to our cattle owners and to get agreement of our area veterinarians a big, well publicized meeting was held first with our "vets" and then with our farmers with a real expert from Beltsville to handle most of program. About 150 farmers showed up and apparently got the "message" as no longer are we able to find many farmers who do not have some type of a "lepto" program. We believe this is also true because recommendations drafted by the "vets" and by the farmers at the meeting were publicized.

H. PUBLIC POLICY

In the past, few fields of Extension work here was so poorly done. Realizing this fully an interested committee planned and publicized a series of 3 meetings for our county leaders. From an invited 35, our crowds grew to 80 with interest extremely high. Dr. Gene McMurtry of VPI is to be commended for excellent leadership for the meetings. "Buzz" sessions were new to most attending but proved to be most effective.

I. BUILDERS MEETING

Realizing that our builders have much to do with the type and kind of farm structures being built, we held two meetings for them. "Blueprints and Materials" were discussed at the first, "Concrete" at the second. Both were well attended.

J. NEGRO FARMERS

Several classes were taught for this group after having been arranged by the NFA instructors. Even though this group also takes part in all

Goal - Enlarge activities in feeder sales and to do some spot testing on herds showing Bangs or "Lepto" symptoms.

Methods and Results

More Madison hog men put more hogs in feeder sales than previously but still too few to establish a real price structure. More time must be spent on this endeavor in '62.

A couple of large herds showing signs of some disease were tested and found to be negative, to our surprise. More work should be done on this. Individual visits to our hog setups reveal our biggest problem is still internal parasites. One treatment apparently doesn't do the job anymore. In order to initiate a possible program we have been visiting our feed dealers to explain need and to solicit their assistance in getting job done. Much individual help given in selection of boars and females to add to herd.

F. FORESTRY

Madison County is still cutting much more timber than is being planted. The marking of timber and woodland management assistance is being requested more frequently. These requests are pooled in our office and given to the state forester.

A demonstration using four trees of varying age was set up outside agent's office and proved most helpful in getting 103,000 trees planted.

## SHEEP

Situation and Problems - Sheep numbers have begun to level off after several downward years. Obviously the new wool marketing setup has helped here. Parasites still remain one of biggest problems.

Goal - Assist wool marketing board of directors in most effective system of selling our wool.

### Methods and Results

Believe goal was met 100%. Following several meetings of our local group, representatives went to two area meetings in Luray relative to our joining several more pools there for the sale of wool. Believing our group would be much better satisfied with the group working out of Staunton we asked permission to join them. This was granted along with an invitation for all counties in Northern Virginia which was in turn accepted. The fact that buyers and sellers of more than 800,000 pounds of wool were gathered in the same room, it is a certainty that all profited. Certainly this was the case with our growers. Now we need a similar setup for lambs. All individual requests were handled in full.

## HOGS

Situation and Problems - Hog numbers constant. Only real problems are a relatively poor management program in effect on most farms and the fact that not enough feeder pigs are being sold through organized sales to create a price structure. "Lepto" or some such disease symptoms noted in some herds, and of course parasites are still not under control.

keepers help sign up calves. Agent spent much time helping State Veterinarians organize to make periodic TB checks.

A program started last year whereby all beef meetings, whether large or small, got some management hints was continued with good results. Such matters as "off season" calves, parasites, quality silage discussed by VPI specialists and experts in the field.

Here are results of the feeder sales which are growing in interest and understanding by producers and buyers alike.

MADISON COUNTY YEARLING STEER SALE

101 consignors, 1607 head sold, average price \$26.78 (up .73 over last year)

ORANGE-MADISON-GREENE FEEDER CALF SALE

9 consignors, 105 head sold, average price \$26.78

CULPEPER FEEDER CALF SALE

23 consignors, 139 head sold, average price \$27.07

JOINT FEEDER CALF SALE

19 consignors, 148 head sold, average price \$27.10

SPRING FEEDER CALF AND YEARLING SALE

12 consignors, 409 head sold, average price \$28.33

Sending animals back home below "medium" grade still best "quality improvement" program as farmers tend to buy better and/or go back and sell cows that produce such calves.

Much help requested and given in purchase of herd sires and replacement females.

Six herds on BCIA. These men pleased with program but most difficult to get new herds even though they are invited to view weighing and grading and discuss program with BCIA neighbors.

E. LIVESTOCK

BEEF CATTLE

Situation - Beef cattle numbers still going up with biggest increase coming in steer calves bought to be sold as yearlings. BCIA program hard to promote - trouble appearing to be in identification of cows. Interest remains high in graded sales.

Problems

- (1) Probably only 85% of cows producing calves for market.
- (2) Quality improving but still too many medium and common calves.
- (3) Bull quality lower than should be.
- (4) Parasites - situation improving but all too slowly.
- (5) Wrong replacement heifers kept on some farms.
- (6) Feed quality needs improving on some farms.
- (7) Spring sale helps but still too many off-season calves.

Goal - Increase number of producers and calves in spring sale. Get 25% of yearling producers to use stilbestrol.

Methods and Results

Expanded stilbestrol research project in cooperation with VPI using Graves Brothers cattle. Steers given stilbestrol up 32 pounds each over check group. Project is continuing into levels to use in feedlot. To date only about 15% of yearlings getting implant. Here is a project that must be increased in '62 as it pertains to yearlings. Most fat cattle are already on some form of stilbestrol.

Eighty beef farmers took part in "Lepto" meeting. Nearly all practice calfhoo bangs vaccination - many through countywide setup whereby store

#### D. POULTRY

Situation and Problems - Big getting bigger, small getting smaller, and many going clear out of business until it is becoming increasingly difficult to purchase eggs. Efficiency high in large broiler and egg operations. With Heatwole and Zeus Hatcheries out, only a few hatching flocks are left and they now go to two small hatcheries in Orange.

Goal - Set up a series of poultry educational events with Greene, Culpeper, and Orange.

#### Methods and Results

For the first time in a long time we obtained positive results. Working with committees from our surrounding counties in planning the programs, two egg and two broiler meetings were held with good attendances. Speakers came from VPI and the industry. Broiler and egg groups meeting separately was much more effective than meeting jointly as they had in the past.

Model setups were used as needed at the following places:

BROILERS - Ed DeJarnette, Madison

COMMERCIAL EGGS - Ed Kiblinger, Madison

COMMERCIAL (CAGE LAYERS) - Stewart Miller, Madison

HATCHERY FLOCK - Mrs. Walker Hood, Hood

Building plans were stocked and individual requests were processed with help of Extension Engineer whenever possible. Agents also attempted to work closely with service men working in the area.

C. HORTICULTURE

Situation and Problems - Big yields and good quality reported by nearly all of our 60 peach and apple growers. All use VPI spray calendars to good advantage. It is just a shame we still have varieties around that don't sell well. New peach plantings are of the proper variety.

Goal - Continue present educational setup and concentrate on timing of sprays.

Methods and Results

Thanks in a large measure to the Madison County Fruitgrowers group which determines local problems and sponsors demonstrations and meetings, no other local group carries out the modern practices and teachings of VPI quite so well. From the pruning demonstration held on the coldest day of the year through the final meeting in late July on "Disease and Insect Situation", all meetings were well attended. We believe this was particularly true because all specialists before addressing group made field surveys to determine local problems. The fact that a specialist from the Charlottesville Station made at least weekly visits also helped better time the sprays.

We were particularly pleased that men considering new peach varieties checked results at Mrs. Fred I. Coates' planting demonstration before deciding and then quite often asked for the help of our site finding committee.

### Methods and Results

Much of the task of telling the "base" story was told in four separate meetings, the remainder in individual conferences. A well attended all-day dairy school was held which featured basic as well as new material in the field, including the expanded use of quality silage.

All "A" dairymen and nearly all the "B" producers practicing calf-hood vaccination, many in the countywide vaccinating program handled by the agents. Dairymen also attended in big numbers the "lepto" meeting discussed elsewhere in this report.

The following demonstrational units have been set up as places to take dairymen from in and out of the county interested in "seeing" such before they start:

A. Martin Macy, Locust Dale - Grade A set-up planned by Doane  
(milk parlor, trampshed, self-feed bunker silos, hay sheds)

Harry Johnston, Locust Dale - Herringbone Plan

Weaver Brothers, Radiant - Fancy Milk Parlor  
(overall push button feeding set-up and manure handling)

J. M. Gibbs, Pratts - Low cost milk parlor set-up

R. E. Brown, Orange RFD - Pipeline set-up

Meander Farm, Locust Dale, and L. F. Lacy, Aroda - Grade "B" set-up

All of these used many times by others going into business or making changes. Dairy fieldmen big help in overall dairy educational endeavors.

Twenty-four herds on EDPM-DHIA with approximately 1500 cows.  
L. R. Kirkwood, Jr., Supervisor, continued superior performance.

Only tour with "B" producers canceled. This and anything that will improve overall management must be done in '62. "A" and "B" producers asking for advice on possibility of renting cows. We shall see!

Ira Aylor's old plant food demonstration for management of ladino clover-orchard grass pasture used a number of times during the year to show farmers and dealers that under proper management ladino clover can be maintained indefinitely.

Dealers big help in getting a 10% increase in the sale of fescue seed.

As usual, the most effective job was done in pasture improvement with the 25 farmers who received an individual visit. ASC records indicate pasture lime and fertilizer topdressing up over last year.

#### B. DAIRY

Situation - 45 Grade A dairymen, 130 Grade B, and 426 others own 4,042 cows and 5,453 heifers, according to 1959 census. Herd expansion continues in Grade A production along with many new pipeline constructions. Grade B efficiency low but improving by using more artificial breeding and some herd expansion.

##### Other Problems

- (1) Calf raising still poorest part of dairy set-up.
- (2) Hay and silage quality needs improving.
- (3) Overall "B" management improving but all too slowly.
- (4) "B" herd size too small.

Goal - Encourage all Grade A dairymen going to Maryland-Virginia of the need for producing all possible milk (efficiently as possible) so as to be in position to obtain a good base in case such a plan materializes. Stage field trip for "B" producers.

- (3) Difficult to maintain ladino clover.
- (4) Increasing disease and insect activity.
- (5) Rotational grazing needed on more dairy farms.

Hay Goal - Hold June 20th Field Day to stress hay quality. Get all alfalfa growers to use heptachlor fertilizer.

Pasture Goal - Stress "Silage" at field day and work closely with 25 "new" farmers on pasture management.

#### Methods and Results

Three hundred farmers, many of whom left hay making at home, attended Forage Handling Field Day at Bending River Farm on June 20. The big day featured the FULL story of "Quality Hay" from production, harvesting (including heat drying), through the use by dairy and beef cattle. All area machinery dealers particularly enjoyed showing the many techniques of harvesting. "Quality Hay" also showed up as a topic on most all the dairy and livestock programs held. Agent still attempts to view each hay conditioner buyer and go over proper stage of cutting all hay. Drop-in visits by agent most helpful.

Goal very near to being realized when we were able to find only a mere handful of alfalfa growers who did not use heptachlor to control weevil and according to directions. Those who did not use material on time did not get complete control. The fact that a definite amount of fertilizer must be used to get weevil control has resulted in increased use of fertilizer, thus larger yields. The season was particularly good. Many alfalfa fields cut five times - orchard grass and clover three times.

### SMALL GRAIN

Situation - Although more barley, and particularly oats, are needed yields are not always good, usually resulting from a soil condition.

Good farmers tend to use too much nitrogen - others not enough.

#### Problems

- (1) Need for more oats and barley.
- (2) Yield low on some farms, excess lodging on others.
- (3) Insect damage in bins.
- (4) Hudson barley acreage lower than should be.

Goal - Give individual assistance to all requests. Make sure dealers have full story in order to aid in correcting problems.

#### Methods and Results

Once again the "dealer technique" used to big advantage in increasing oat acreages along with proper varieties and fertilizers. These men also helping to increase acreage of Hudson barley and Arlington oats on farms where lodging is a real problem. Newspaper and radio also used to promote program.

### HAY AND PASTURE

Situation - One of the best growing seasons ever resulted in some alfalfa being cut five times, orchard grass and clover three times, along with pasture that was flush all year. Increased use of fescue noted on many farms.

#### Problems

- (1) Confidence lessened for alfalfa.
- (2) Topdressing too little on many farms.

## CORN

Situation - 12,000 acres planted to corn (98% hybrid) with 7,000 acres for grain and the rest for silage. Average corn yields should be above 60 bushels per acre.

### Problems

- (1) Still need for more silage and grain.
- (2) Big need for a shift to corn silage that yields high in TDN per acre.
- (3) Weeds and grass.
- (4) Poor stands on some farms.
- (5) More nitrogen needed on many farms.

Goal - Check corn stand on 50 "new" farms with owner or operator with the idea of increasing stand and discuss fertilizer programs. Start campaign to tell farmers story of high TDN silages.

### Methods and Results

Thirty corn stands checked showed improvement over those of last year but 30% still below normal for land planted.

Atrazine and 2,4-D demonstrations used as means of advising their use. This is particularly effective with dealers. More time used in telling the TDN per acre story and when to ensile than any other phase of corn culture. Survey work revealed best silage on record.

The biggest yield on record due largely to excellent growing season but also to varieties and increased use of nitrogen. More 10-10-10 sold this year than ever before, dealers report.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### A. AGRONOMY

Situation - Even though the speed is a bit slow, the direction of our long-time agronomy program appears to be right. Bottomlands are farmed more intensively each year. Hill land going more to grass each year. More use being made of soil survey information which is being made available as the survey continues. Farm supply dealers most helpful and cooperative. All ASC soil samples going through Extension Office for recommendations.

Goal - Continue educational program needed to proceed with soil survey and utilize such information as it becomes available. Keep all dealers and key people advised of last minute agronomic practices.

#### Methods and Results

Results of our educational campaign to prepare the way for the soil survey have been successful in that the survey party has been well received everywhere. Survey material just now beginning to become available is being used. Agents are also getting a real soils education in working with the soil scientists.

One dealers meeting was held and many visits made throughout the year to seed and fertilizer dealers and key people to keep them up to the minute on agronomic changes. These men wanting the best for their customers not only stock recommended items but "push" them to a big advantage.

One hundred fifteen full-time farmers attended our all day Agronomy School featuring speakers from VPI and the industry on such subjects as soils, weed control, fertilizers, and feed production programs.

#### OVERALL SITUATION

The 1959 census lists 757 farmers with an average acreage of 171.3 and a land and building value of \$19,098.00. Six hundred sixty-nine are white, 88 non-white. Approximately half of these make the major portion of their living from the farm. Low net income remains the major problem. Causes can be traced to low volume and/or efficiency in some cases, and the price-cost squeeze in others. New enterprises are needed on some farms, a review of labor and management practices on all farms. In order to increase volume and efficiency, good management practices are stressed. Another technique we are using now is to attempt to get small farms going out of business added to a "going" neighborhood operation rather than continuing as a complete unit. Off-farm employment is the only answer for some people.

#### OVERALL EXTENSION GOAL

Encourage Madison County people to recognize needs and furnish enthusiasm for stimulating interest and a conscientious desire for working out solutions for themselves, thus making possible a more prosperous and pleasant community in which to live.

#### COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The diagram on preceding page shows set-up of the Agricultural Extension Service Board, the organization where policies were studied, formulated, and many times carried through.

Along with this the agent has developed over the years a "kitchen cabinet" composed of men, women, and youngsters of many varied backgrounds who also guide, criticize and give invaluable assistance. Together they made possible a full program which in most cases "got the job done."

Several individuals deserve special mention.

W. Rapley Owings, Assistant Agent. During the six weeks the agent was in the hospital and completely off duty this highly creative individual acted as agent and did exceptional work in all phases.

Curtis Absher, Assistant Agent in Training. Although only here during the summer, made a real contribution and showed big possibilities for the future.

Sarah U. Gibbs, Secretary. Continued superior performance in all phases of work.

G. H. Clark, District Agent. As always, gave counsel, guidance, and friendship.

MADISON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE BOARD

- COMMITTEES**  
 Agronomy  
 Livestock  
 Dairy  
 Horticulture  
 Forestry  
 Poultry

F & H DEVELOPMENT  
FOOD PRODUCTION  
& PROCESSING

4-H ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COUNTY  
H. D. COMMITTEE

- DHLA  
 Yearling Sale  
 Feeder Calf Sale  
 Artificial Breeders  
 Association  
 Wool Pool

- Farm Bureau  
 Rochelle Grange  
 Burnt Tree Grange  
 Brightwood Ruritan  
 Young Farmers Club

4-H COUNTY COUNCIL

PROGRAM  
DEVELOPMENT  
HEALTH  
CITIZENSHIP

- 4-H Clubs (13)  
 Baby Beef Club  
 Honor Club  
 All Star Chapter

12  
H. D. Clubs

THE PEOPLE  
WHERE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT BEGINS

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# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Allan McLearn

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
County

**Agent**

**Title**



1961

\_\_\_\_\_  
W. R. Owings

**Assistant Agent**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Curtis Absher

**Assistant Agent**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Assistant Agent**

\_\_\_\_\_  
MADISON

**County**