

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1960

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County

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COUNTY SITUATION

Nansemond County is located in the Tidewater section of eastern Virginia. The 1959 Census of Agriculture shows that there are 998 farms in Nansemond County as compared to 1,311 farms in the county in 1954. Of the 998 farms, 319 were operated by Negroes in 1959 as compared to 436 farms operated by Negroes in 1954.

However, it is noted that the definition of a farm changed between 1954 and 1959. For 1959, each place operated as a unit of 10 or more acres from which the sale of agricultural products totaled \$50 or more, as well as each place operated as a unit of less than 10 acres from which the sale of agricultural products totaled \$250 or more, was counted as a farm. For 1954, each place operated as a unit of three or more acres on which the value of farm products produced totaled \$150 or more, as well as each place of less than three acres from which the value of all agricultural products sold totaled \$150 or more, was counted as a farm. The change in the definition of a farm affects the comparability of the data for 1959 and 1954, particularly in respect to the number of farms and the number of farms reporting each item. Of the decrease of 313 in the county between 1954 and 1959, 55 of this number was caused by the change in definition of a farm.

In 1959, Nansemond's population was 25,238 of which 65.5 percent (16,490) were Negroes. The farm population was 7,281 making up 28.8 percent of the total for the county. This indicates an estimate

12,000 Negro non-farm people living in the county.

The part-time and non-farm families are employed at several local concerns; peanut factories, meat packing houses, vegetable cannery, lumber and woodworking plants, fish and oyster houses, basket factories, brick factory, and fertilizer plants utilizing local materials. Several men commute daily, by private bus and automobiles, to Portsmouth, Norfolk, and Newport News to work at the Ship Yards, Naval Base and other government installations. This increased income brought into the county has produced a great demand for improved housing and other family and community services. Civic groups have been organized by the people in the several communities that stress the civic responsibility of government participation, home improvement and beautification, and other affairs of the community.

Several family members have found time and funds available to take advantage of evening classes held at Norfolk Division - Virginia State College, which offers training above high school in clerical work, hair dressing, and other self-improving courses.

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

County Advisory Board

The County Advisory Board, composed of leaders from the five magisterial districts in the county, serves as a planning and sponsoring aid in carrying out the Extension Program. This year the "bell Toll" came for several older members which necessitated the addition of six

new members to the board. In fostering the role of Extension organizational leadership in the county, the Advisory Board constitution was drawn up to give a more formal and punctual operating procedure.

In January, the board made plans for a Farmers Conference on February 25; County Tour - July 28; participation in the Tidewater Fair, October 10 - 15; and a King and Queen Contest in November. Out of county representation was assured for Farm and Home Week at Virginia State College, July 12 - 14; State Awards Program - Sussex County, May 12; and the State Advisory Board Meeting, September 7-8.

At the quarterly meetings, this board assisted in carrying out the county activities and received reports from committees selected for the various jobs.

In helping to work with more people through Extension teaching, this core of leaders assisted in analyzing problems, establishing goals, and assisted with organizing leadership in their respective communities to carry farm and home improving demonstrations. These problem committees and enterprise demonstrators were utilized through which more people could effectively participate in the Extension Program.

Community Improvement Club

Corinth Chapel Community Club consisted of leaders who assisted the people in the three neighborhoods in carrying out the required farm and home improvement demonstration for competition in the State

Improvement Contest. Each year this community is scored to determine the improvements made during the calendar year. Second prize was received this year for improvements made in the 1959 State Contest.

Agronomy Committee

The Agronomy Committee is composed of six members which are rotated each year, with the two older position members being replaced with two new members. A survey of agronomy problems is made and the most important ones form a bench mark for action. These members follow and encourage others to have their soil tested, use the proper kind and amount of seeds and fertilizers, and follow other recommended production and marketing practices.

Forestry Committee

Plans and assistance in carrying out forestry practices among farmers and 4-H members are given by this three-man committee. Special assistance was given in woodland management and planting pine seedlings through the work of this committee.

L. M. Folk, committee member, planted 4,000 pine seedlings on his farm in February.

4-H Junior Council

The 4-H Junior Council is composed of the officers from the 13 Clubs in the county, which aids in carrying out the 4-H activities. This Council works out plans on different projects that involve all club members and help to conduct a 4-H Achievement Day program held

in April. This group assisted in entering a second prize 4-H Fair Float in the Fiftieth Tidewater Anniversary on October 11.

Special training was given this group on how to conduct 4-H meetings, and their duties and responsibilities as officers. This council planned and assisted with National 4-H Club Week celebration and Rural Life Sunday.

MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS - 1960

Peanuts

Peanut production accounts for a large percentage of the cash income on most farms in the county. The acreage allotment control has encouraged farmers to produce for maximum returns from their planted acreage. The cultural practices are placed in priority on most farms, and information on recommendations was requested by many farmers.

Because of a report from the State ACS office which indicated that peanut producers in Virginia underplanted 3,094 acres of this important cash crop, farmers were advised in April by circular letters, radio broadcasts, and farm visits to have their peanut land pre-measured before planting. The estimated loss of \$625,708 by peanut producers in the state from underplanting, raised the eye lids of all farmers contacted in person. All producers were advised to contact the local ACS office about having their land premeasured.

Through radio broadcasts, farm visits, and circular tips, peanut growers were advised of current recommendations to consider. Some

points on these recommendations were: Peanuts grow best on well-drained soils with a pH between 5.7 and 6.2. Adapted varieties for a locality are satisfactory for efficient production, but certified peanut seeds insure a definite variety and more uniform crop. To prevent seed decay and improve the stand, the seed should be treated with 3 ounces of Arasan per 100 pounds of shelled nuts. Fertilizers may be applied to the previous crop, but if not, 400 to 600 pounds of 0-10-20 or 0-9-27 should be plowed or disked in before planting. Cover crops should be turned under six inches deep about four weeks before planting time. All refuse should be completely covered to prevent stem rot. At early blooming time in late June, 400 to 600 pounds of landplaster per acre should be applied in wide bands over the rows for bunch and broadcast for runners. For weed control, 1 gallon per acre for 12-inch band on a 36-inch row, or 3 gallons per acre over-all spray should be used.

Farmers were constantly informed of the above, and other recommendations as their crops progressed. The results of getting this information to producers and demonstrators showed some changes in production methods.

Corn - Livestock Feed and Grain Sale

Corn is produced for fattening hogs and commercial grain sale. An over-all increase yield in recent years can be attributed to hybrid seeds, increased amount of fertilizer, and the available local market. The use of the corn picker has enabled the farmers to harvest their corn before bad weather sets in.

Six farmers conducted method demonstrations on "How To Get The Most Corn Per Acre." Attempts were made to get all participants to lime their soil for a pH of 6.0 to 6.2 and apply 600 to 900 pounds of fertilizer, such as 4-12-12, 5-10-10 or 10-10-10. The fertilizer was to be applied 200 to 300 pounds in the row and the rest broadcast on the land before plowing or disking. Full-season hybrid seed planted on 40-inch rows at the rate of 14,000 kernels per acre was recommended. The yield results have not been determined at this time.

Sweet Potatoes

Commercial sweet potato production as a supplementary cash crop has been increasing during recent years. Log curing houses have been constructed on several farms and potatoes are being sold at the city market weekly. A few large growers have found a market shipping by truck to Richmond. Much has to be done to get farmers to realize the value of grading their potatoes for top price when marketing.

Soybeans

Soybeans are grown commercially in the county and several farmers seed this crop for supplementary cash and nutritive food value for livestock. This crop plays an important role throughout the county when interplanted with corn for hogging-down purposes, which aids in the reduced cost of swine production.

Results of soybean germination tests in the early part of the year indicated that the seed supply for 1960 shows germination of less than 85 percent. Several samples were sent to be tested for producers

and in all cases the test ran higher than 90 percent. Most farmers experienced good stands.

Cotton

Cotton is produced on a small scale in the county. The producers utilize marketing facilities in North Carolina. Production information was given producers with special emphasis on increased bolls per stalk and boll-weevil control. Several requests for cotton residue were received from flower growers to be used in winterizing their plants.

Winter Cover Crops

Most farmers are now seeding some type of cover crop during the fall. The major crops seeded are Abruzzi Rye, Winter Oats, Crimson Clover and Italian Rye Grass. These crops are seeded to aid in preventing leaching and to supplement the grain and hay ration for livestock during the winter. Early grazing is usually available when the crops are planted after the peanuts are harvested.

Pasture

Farmers are slow to realize or take advantage of pasture which should be their cheapest source of feed. With the long growing season, the livestock on farms could utilize this feed rather than being fed ship fed, and in many cases going without proper feed. Many farmers feel that it is a waste of time to fertilize a field when a cash crop is not being planted. Constant effort is being

exerted through field meetings at pasture demonstrations, and discussions during visits with livestock growers of the value of pastures.

Garden - Truck Crops

Eighty percent of the farm families raise some type of garden, but the percentage that have a year round garden is very small. A larger variety of vegetables could be produced for sale, and a sufficient amount raised for each member of the family. Special efforts are being made to increase the number and size of gardens of part-time and non-farm families. An increase in the enrollment of 4-H members in garden projects in these families indicates a step in this direction.

The purchase of deep freezers are providing a conserving place for in-season vegetables and the purchase of local grown products by several stores is providing a source of disposal, as well as a source of additional farm income.

Landscaping

There was a definite increase in the number of individuals who requested assistance in establishing lawns and other areas of landscaping. Several soil tests were made for lawns, and recommended lawn establishment assistance given. Special assistance was received in setting-up a landscaping demonstration. Some requests for assistance was received from local club groups. Through these clubs more assistance was given to a larger number of individuals. Three local nurseries were the source from which trees and shrubs were obtained.

LIVESTOCK

Swine

Swine production is a definite source of income for farm families in Nansemond County. The practices of pasturing swine in the peanut fields after harvesting seems to reduce the cost of pork production on many farms and the local packers are a ready source for marketing. With the decline of hog prices in the fall, many farmers have found it to their advantage to market their hogs in May and June and carry the second crop until January.

With stress and selling premium being placed upon the market type hog, farmers are beginning to realize that they will have to raise the type of animals that will bring the best price for the greatest profit. Increased number and quality are paramount.

The purchase of hogs by U. S. grades by one of the local packers has given indication of goals for future producers.

Dairy Cattle

With the increase in part-time farm families and the increase in the rural non-farm population, the need for more family cows seems evident. With an average of five members per family living in the county, the consumption of milk is very low. A few farmers with the available land are raising sufficient cows and supply their neighbors with their surplus dairy products, but many children are without milk their diet.

The value of milk is stressed in the 4-H Clubs and the members are encouraged to carry calf projects.

Beef Cattle

Beef cattle production is limited to families with large acreage, with a few others having dairy cows bred for feeder calf sales.

Willie Peele of Lummis Community has made substantial progress in establishing a beef herd which consists of twenty animals. Permanent pasture and supplementary cover crop grazing is contained in his feeding program.

Sheep

The production of sheep in the county is increasing and is becoming a major supplementary source of income on some farms. The Boykins family has continued the operation of their herd after the death of Mr. Boykins this year. The family's livestock program assisted greatly with expenses incurred during the long period that Mr. Boykins was hospitalized.

L. M. Folk of Hosier Lane Community began a sheep herd in 1958 which replaced his beef herd. He has indicated that his acreage was insufficient for beef and that the sheep are fitting better into his over-all farming program.

FARM AND HOME UNIT DEMONSTRATION

The Earnest Hall Family of Chuckatuck Community is conducting a demonstration of a relatively balanced farm and home program. The farm income of this family is balanced between the sale of crops and livestock. The utilization and conservation of home grown commodities is above average for the county. The family raised 50 hogs, 3 milk cows, 200 chickens, 20 ducks and geese, and a sufficient year round

garden to supply the family and for marketing. A county tour ended at this farm in July where a live-at-home enterprise was observed.

The Boykins family of Holland Community has conducted a Farm and Home Extension Unit since 1945. Many areas of Extension practices were introduced and conducted by members of this family. The operation of this farm unit has fallen to Mrs. Boykins and sons. Several improvements were made this year which included painting the home, new house foundation, the addition of a storage room, and the continued operation of the crop and livestock program. It is felt that the past effect of the Extension program has enabled this family to make adjustments after the death of the father and husband. Continued full assistance will be constantly given this family.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

The farm and home development approach with certain families began in the county in 1955. At that time bench marks were established and farm plans made with the families. Special assistance was given these families in making decisions toward developing their farm and home unit.

During 1957, three additional families were added who were previously enrolled the Veterans Institutional On-The-Farm Training Program. Assistance had been requested by them for help in continuing their development.

Of the nine families enrolled in this program, four were owners and full-time employed on the farm. The other five were employed off the farm, and conducted some at-home enterprises. Evidence of slow

progress was noted with all of the families.

The enrollment has remained at nine families which includes three replacements of families who discontinued because of moving from the county.

J. F. Boone - age 32, wife and one minor child, continued to show progress with the operation of a filling station, 10 acres of truck crops, and 30 hogs. Mr. Boone works part-time as a carpenter and is interested in increasing his farming enterprise. He obtained a syringe and, after a demonstration, treated his hogs and others in his community.

Fletcher Walden - age 38, wife and infant, purchased a 100-acre farm in 1959 that contained a dwelling and out buildings. This family has made many improvements on their dwelling, and produced and conserved a substantial family food supply. Mr. Walden is a carpenter and is interested in part-time farming, and seems to hold good possibilities for farm and home development.

4-H CLUB WORK

There were 13 organized 4-H Clubs in the county in 1960, with 487 boys and 502 girls. The clubs met once a month in the schools for one hour, and 24 teachers and outside leaders assisted with the program. During the summer, special 4-H activities were planned and emphasis was placed on checking home projects through home visits.

Projects completed by 385 boys and units involved:

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>UNITS INVOLVED</u>	<u>UNITS COMPLETED</u>
Corn	13 acres	10 acres
Peanuts	5 acres	5 acres
Potatoes	15 acres	12 acres
Garden	56 acres	47 acres
Forestry	26 units	20 units
Poultry	1500 birds	1200 birds
Tractor maintenance	5 machines	3 machines
Electricity	260 articles	210 articles
Entomology	4 units	4 units
Dairy cattle	3 animals	3 animals
Swine	123 animals	62 animals

JUNIOR MARKET HOG SHOW AND SALE

The 4-H and N.F.A. Hog Show and Sale of the Tidewater Area was held in Suffolk in October, with 20 youth participating. The weighing-in took place at the Joel E. Harrell Packing Company, at which time the animals were weighed, ear-tagged and graded. The hogs were then transported to the Fair Grounds where they were recorded and penned. The 69 animals were penned according to weights and grades, and only the U.S. No. I in three weight groups of 180-200, 201-220, and 221-240 were shown and judged for premiums in the amount of \$61.00.

Of the 69 animals, 25 graded U.S. I, and 18 received premiums ranging from 1st to 6th place. Six animals were shown as a pen of three. The hogs were sold at auction to three local packers as follows:

	<u>Hogs</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Price per lb.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Grand Champion	3	574	40.00	229.60
Reserve Champion	3	623	35.50	221.17
U. S. No. I 180-200	13	2486	21.25	528.27
U. S. No. I 201-220	7	1493	21.50	320.99
U. S. No. II 180-200	6	1157	20.25	234.29
U. S. No. II 201-220	6	1281	21.25	272.21
U. S. No. II 221-240	1	211	21.00	44.31
U. S. Medium	3	567	20.75	117.65
Lightweight	24	3682	17.25	644.35
Overweight	3	731	19.75	144.37
	<u>69</u>			<u>\$2757.21</u>

Excellent comments were given by the judges to about 50 spectators and participants as to the points for selecting and care of animals for marketing, as well as showing with emphasis on increased profits for quality.

4-H CLUB DAY

A 4-H Club Day celebration was held in April to give recognition for achievement of 4-H members and leaders. Each of the 13 clubs and several members exhibited project work in the Florence Graded School Auditorium. This event gave the parents of 4-H members a chance to see what the members were doing, and to become more familiar with the 4-H Program. A short program was conducted and county awards presented to members. Refreshments were served and out-door games played.

4-H CLUB FLOAT

A second prize 4-H Club Float was entered in the Fiftieth Tidewater Fair Anniversary Parade on October 11. The theme of the float

was "Learn, Live, and Serve Through 4-H." A large truck was decorated by 4-H Club members under the supervision of the Home Agent. Several members rode on the float which assimilated a meeting in progress. Pictures were taken by the local newspaper, and several were made on one of the parents. Due to the fact that the Junior Livestock Show and Sale was held on the same day, manual assistance was given by two fathers of 4-H members which showed a true spirit of cooperation.

OTHER 4-H CLUB EVENTS

Two 4-H boys represented the 4-H Clubs at the State 4-H Short Course at Virginia State College in June. Each member was required to bring back a report.

Three boys attended the Wildlife Conference at Virginia State College in August, and received training in the conservation of our natural resources. A club period was given was reports from this conference and a lively discussion ensued.

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Farmers Conference

Forty farmers and homemakers met in February at the Laurel Hill Christian Church in Holland Community to receive specialist's help on wills and deeds. The topic was presented by Extension Economist, W. J. Muckolls, Jr., with the aid of visual aid material. The numerous questions from the group indicated a keen interest and an awareness that each person should make a will to properly dispose of real and personal properties after the death of the property owner. The group was in-

structed to seek legal aid in drawing up a will, obtain signatures of three non-profiting witnesses, and thereafter place the will in safe keeping.

County Tour

Sixty farmers and homemakers made up a convoy that toured six rural families in three communities in Nansemond County on July 26.

The following families were visited on the six stops:

1. Brown Family of Buckhorn Community

Canned home grown vegetables were observed, and storage arrangement plans discussed with stress on food preservation to reduce the food budget.

2. Randall Family of Myrtle Community

A diversified farm program was observed with emphasis on a relatively constant source of income throughout the year from the sale of vegetables, poultry, cured pork, corn, peanuts, soybeans, and watermelons. This farm afforded full-time employment.

3. Luke Family of Myrtle Community

Cash crop enterprises of peanuts, soybeans, and corn (a total of 42 acres) were observed and found in an excellent state of growth. Good management and up-to-date recommendations were being followed to which efficiency was attributed.

4. The Daniel Hall Family of Chuckatuck

This elderly couple, long time supporters of the Extension Program and community organizations, raised four foster

children, and they are sending the last one to Law School in North Carolina.

5. The K. W. Hall Family of Chuckatuck

K. W. Hall is the son of Mr. Daniel Hall (mentioned above) by a previous marriage. This neatly kept home is next door to the elderly Halls' home, and at this place the homemakers observed color schemes. Watermelon was served the group.

6. The Earnest Hall Family

This family donated one of their 58 hogs for barbecue which was served on the lawn for a fee to assist the County Advisory Board. Timely summary remarks were given by District Agent, S. E. Marshall.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In 1951, Corinth Chapel Community in Nansemond County was selected to compete in the State Community Improvement Contest, in the areas of farm, home, and family improvements. Each year this community is scored to determine the improvements made during the calendar year. The scoring made in August shows that the following improvements have been made:

5 acres of land cleared	2 installed water under pressure
1 tractor purchased	1 home wired for electricity
3 trucks purchased	15 rooms painted
4 new homes built	4,500 quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meats canned
2 rooms added	5000 pounds food frozen
7 telephones installed	

There are 93 families, with 189 adults and 196 children. This community has won one of the top ten prizes during six of the past ten years.

Family and Community Institute

Farmers and homemakers throughout the state attended Farm and Home Week at Virginia State College on July 12, 13, and 14, 1960. The five-session conference consisted of addresses, discussions and group meetings. Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Daniel, and the local farm and home agents represented Nansemond County.

COOPERATION WITH LOCAL AGENCIES

Nansemond Credit Union

The state chartered Nansemond Credit Union obtains its membership from the city of Suffolk and county members within a two mile radius. This Credit Union has a membership of 700 and did \$98,000,000 worth of business last year. Shares are sold at five dollars each, and has a life insurance that matches all shares purchased up to \$1,000. Members may borrow up to \$600 on their signature with proper employment and pay record status. Above this amount, shares are considered collateral. County members have borrowed to purchase seeds, fertilizer, and other minor farm and home operating expenses.

Nansemond Cooperative Association

Two years ago a group of local leaders decided to organize a Cooperative (Service Station and Garage), and after an extensive educational program the station was opened for business in October. There are 200 shareholders who purchased shares at \$10.00 each. A member is limited to 100 shares. The present membership embodies individuals from Suffolk and most sections of the county. Shareholders will receive dividends on their shares, and all patrons will receive

a patronage refund. The filling station did \$4500 worth of business its first week of operation. The cooperative is a member of the National Cooperative Association.

East Suffolk Gardens

The rapid increase in the rural non-farm population is indicated by the increased home construction by non-farm people throughout the county. This increase is specifically noted in the East Suffolk Gardens F. H. A. development in the county. Fifty of 300 planned houses with a price range of \$9500.00 to \$10,600.00 have been completed and are occupied. Families in this community have made many requests for assistance with lawn and landscaping management. Civic clubs have been organized to assist with the community problems of these areas. Effective 4-H Clubs seem to hold a good future possibility.

Tidewater Fair Association

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Fair Association was celebrated this year, and boasted that it failed to operate only one year during its lifetime. Today the enthusiasm of exhibiting is held only by the older people, and the young people are attracted by the auto and horse races, also the midway. Educational school exhibits, floral and home demonstration exhibits seem to have a rising interest during recent years.

Attempts will be made to obtain specialist assistance in reorganizing the farm product exhibit catalogue section, and adjust the premiums as suggested to and accepted by the board of directors. At present the individual entries do not require sufficient produce to emphasize quality selection or sufficient premiums to encourage competition.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WORK

The shifting of farm population to a rural non-farm status is making a greater demand for the application of scientific agricultural research by those who will remain on the farm. It appears that farming is becoming big business and can be enjoyed as a way of life, only by those who have other employment for their livelihood and farm on a small scale on a part-time basis.

The cost of machinery and other capital outlay must be utilized fully if they are to be an asset rather than a liability, when the farmer figures his profit and loss.

Farm income is being subsidized by off-farm employment and increased farm income is being realized by diversified agricultural enterprises. Special emphasis will be placed on the quality as well as the quantity of products being produced and marketed. Efforts will be made to acquaint young people and older 4-H members with the objectives of the Extension Service function in helping people to develop their abilities in maintaining more efficient farms and homes, higher income and level of living, increased willingness to accept leadership when such action will contribute effectively to improving their welfare.

The positive effect of the Extension Service must not only be concerned about the production and marketing of commodities, but also the motivation of people to make changes in other areas of rural development.

A quarterly Extension Newspaper, entitled, "Extension Highspots" which was mailed to rural families, professional workers, business establishments, ministers, and other people not directly associated with

the program had to be discontinued in June due to the failure of the office mimeograph machine. (A promise of a replacement was received in October.) Several people inquired about the missing issues.

A file system was set up in the office according to the classification system adapted for use in the Virginia Agricultural Extension Offices known as the Subject-Numeric System of Classifying and filing. Under this system, a primary or main subject is subdivided into secondary and tertiary subjects as required. It appears that the systematical working of this system is going to be excellent.

Appreciation for the cooperation of the office personnel, rural leaders, 4-H Club sponsors, County Board of Supervisors, cooperating agencies, supervisors from the state office, and assisting specialists who came to the county during the year is here recognized.