

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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Name

LOCAL FARM AGENT

Title

Agent



Assistant Agent

1959

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

BUCKINGHAM

County

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COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. J. W. Logan, President
Mrs. Josephine Spencer, Secretary
Rev. J. E. Tyree
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Miller
Mr. & Mrs. W. O. Parsons
Mr. G. F. Harris
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Brown
Rev. William Kerr
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Forbes
Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Gooden
Mr. J. C. Henderson
Mr. James Cabell
Mr. & Mrs. Percy Hemmings
Mr. N. M. Morgan
Mr. W. O. Woolridge
Mr. Charles Allen
Mr. James Brown
Mr. R. T. Yates

Dillwyn, Virginia
Gladstone, Virginia
Dillwyn, Virginia
Arvonia, Virginia
Scottsville, Virginia
Dillwyn, Virginia
Dillwyn, Virginia
Dillwyn, Virginia
Gladstone, Virginia
Dillwyn, Virginia
Buckingham, Virginia
New Canton, Virginia
Gladstone, Virginia
Dillwyn, Virginia
Dillwyn, Virginia
Gladstone, Virginia
Dillwyn, Virginia
Arvonia, Virginia
Dillwyn, Virginia

The County Agricultural Advisory Board members represent the different communities in Buckingham County, where Extension work is being conducted.

4-H JUNIOR COUNCIL

Calvin Anderson, President	Carter G. Woodson
Mary A. Miller, Secretary	Carter G. Woodson
Doris Brown, Reporter	Carter G. Woodson
Andrew Eldridge	Carter G. Woodson
Geneva Shoemaker	Oak Grove
Geneather C. Watson	Oak Grove
Lillian Watson	Oak Grove
Frank Mann	Oak Grove
Charles Brown	Zion Grove
Linda Jones	Zion Grove
Freddie Jones	Zion Grove
Rufus Logan	Zion Grove
Charles Eldridge	S. J. Ellis
Gladys Anderson	S. J. Ellis
Curley Austin	S. J. Ellis
Alberta Braxton	S. J. Ellis
Frank Ayres	Ridgeway
Patricia Hart	Ridgeway
Melvin Banks	Ridgeway
George Harris	Ridgeway

The 4-H Junior Council represents the officers of the five 4-H Clubs in the county.

AGRONOMY COMMITTEE

Mr. J. W. Logan, Chairman	Dillwyn, Virginia
Mr. James M. Brown	Dillwyn, Virginia
Mr. Joe Spencer	Gladstone, Virginia
Mr. W. O. Parsons	Scottsville, Virginia
Mr. Eugene Miller	Arvonia, Virginia
Mr. J. C. Henderson	New Canton, Virginia
Mr. T. H. Allen	Dillwyn, Virginia

The Agronomy Committee consists of a representative of each community in the county, with the President of the Advisory Board, serving as chairman.

COUNTY SITUATION

Buckingham County was formed from Albemarle in 1761 and probably named for the Duke of Buckingham. In 1950 the total population was 12,286. The county seat, also called Buckingham, has 264 population. A courthouse designed by Thomas Jefferson and built in 1825 was burned in 1869, but a similar one was built on the same site.

This area was explored and settled shortly after 1700. Buckingham Church, built in the early 1700's, is still in use. Peter Francisco, Revolutionary War hero famed for his exploits of strength, lived here. The first chartered woman's college in Virginia, Buckingham Female Collegiate Institute, operated near New Canton from 1837 to 1863. In April 1865, parts of both Union and Confederate armies passed through the southern part of Buckingham on their way to Appomattox, and after the surrender, on the night of April 12, General Lee and some of his men had their last camp near Buckingham where there is now a Confederate Museum.

This county (land area 576 sq. mi. of 368,640 acres - water area 6 sq. mi.) is in the piedmont plateau. Altitudes run from 300 to 700 feet generally but there are several high points -- Willis Mountain, 1,159 ft. and Spear Mountain, 1,550 ft. The James River forms the Northern and northwestern boundary, The Appomattox River - the extreme southern boundary. Temperatures average 37° in January, 76° in July. Precipitation is about 42 inches a year. The soil is loam with a red clay subsoil.

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With more than three-fourths of the total area in forest, the county's economy is closely tied to forestry. Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, including Lee Experimental Forest, lies partly in the county and demonstrated good forestry practices. In recent years Buckingham has led all Virginia counties in pulpwood production and also produces much saw timber, railroad ties, and other items. There are several large lumber mills and many small ones in the county.

Buckingham has many mineral resources. From about 1830 to 1860 gold was profitably mined around Dillwyn, but since then the mines have been little worked because the remaining deposits are too difficult to reach. A rich vein of slate in the northern part of the county has been continuously worked since 1780. Durable and unfading, of a gray-blue color, it is reported to make the best roofing slate in the nation. The Arvonnia mines now produce nearly 4 percent of the roofing slate for the entire country. A recent development is the use of waste slate particles to make building blocks. Other minerals present but not commercially produced at present are copper, mica, soapstone, and iron. Kyanite at present is being mined on Willis Mountain.

In addition to roofing slate, flagging, and slate building blocks, Buckingham's manufactures include canned peaches and tomatoes, lumber, and millwork. Manufacturing is second to agriculture in providing employment for Buckingham people, and more farms are operated on a part-time or residential basis than as a main livelihood, for their operators are employed in other fields of work either within the

county or in nearby counties. Dark tobacco, though no longer the principle source of farm income, is still the biggest cash crop. Because of an unusual increase in Broiler production, poultry now contributes the largest share of farm income and places Buckingham twelfth among Virginia counties in this line. Cattle, calves, and hogs also bring in a sizeable portion of farm receipts.

INTRODUCTION

As in previous years, the Local Farm Agent of Buckingham county feels it a pleasure and privilege to submit this report. It is through this report that the work of the Extension Agent for 1959 may be viewed and evaluated. This report covers the period from December 1, 1958 to November 30, 1959. Results of activities given are determined through the cooperation from different organizations and individuals of the county.

It is hoped that the readers of this report will keep in mind that progress (an important factor) in achieving various goals, all advancements and improvements made, may be considered as results of following recommended farm practices. Many people such as: Teachers, Ministers, Parents, Church workers, and 4-H Club members play a vital role in evaluating the work which the Extension Service performed in Buckingham County during 1959.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 1959 Annual report of the Local Farm Agent in Buckingham County will show directly and indirectly, assistance received from V. P. I., Blacksburg, Virginia; Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia ; U. S. Department of Agriculture; County Officials; Local Vocational Agricultural Instructor; Home Economics worker; Co-Workers in the Extension Service; Community Leaders; and many others.

The cooperation and contribution which the above mentioned persons have made to the promotion of Extension Service in Buckingham County is not only gratefully acknowledged, but the Local Farm Agent wishes each to know that this will serve as an incentive in all his endeavors. Many objectives could not have been obtained had it not been for your assistance. To each of you -- The Local Farm Agent of Buckingham County wishes to extend a sincere " Thank You".

NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

Responsible for many services performed in Buckingham County during 1959 are the various organizations cooperating with the Local Farm Agent to further the Extension program.

- 1- 4-H Junior Council.
- 2- County Agricultural Advisory Board.
- 3- Community Improvement Clubs.
- 4- Agronomy Committee.
- 5- 4-H Clubs.

4-H JUNIOR COUNCIL

The members of the 4-H Junior Council represent the officers of the five 4-H Club in the county. These members meet semi-annually and discuss the progress of various clubs and to plan with the help of leaders the activities of the coming year. A class is held to instruct the officers in their duties and responsibilities.

Activities for the year included:

- 1- Observance of National 4-H Club Week.
- 2- Attending State Short Course.
- 3- Attending Wildlife Conference.
- 4- Observance of Rural Life Sunday.
- 5- Attending Annual 4-H Picnic.
- 6- Participation in Five County Fair.
- 7- Achievement Day.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

The County Agricultural Advisory Board of Buckingham County, consist of twenty six (26) men and women representing the six districts of the county. The objective of this group is to improve farm and home relationship through cooperating with the Extension Service. This board is scheduled to meet twice a year, however, call meetings are held when-ever necessary. During these meetings, the members are made aware of existing conditions in the county and an attempt is made to find a solution to these problems.

In addition to the above listed functions, county wide activities are planned. These include tours, field meetings, and indoor meetings. During these county wide meetings, any recent activities in the field of agriculture are discussed by the Local Farm Agent and the group. Results are obtained from various demonstrations and discussed by the group. The over-all function of the Advisory Board is to plan, stimulate, and promote county wide interest in Extension work.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CLUBS

The St Joy Community Improvement Club, located in the Gladstone area consist of fourteen families joining together to improve their community. During 1959 the objective was to paint the outside of the Church. Recently the outside of the church was painted with some assistance from an outside individual in the form of a donation. All are pleased with the results of the project. Previously this group had seeded the Cemetery plot, graveled part of the driveway, and completed work on the inside of the Church.

The Third Liberty Community Improvement Club, located in the New Canton area, was organized during the year. The first objective of this club was to grade the Church grounds which had washed considerably. Much time was put into this project in an effort to get the work done for the least cost. After careful consideration, this has been accomplished and a portion of the lawn in front of the Church has been seeded and gravel placed in the drive way and parking area.

AGRONOMY COMMITTEE

The Agronomy Committee is composed of seven (7) members, representing the six districts of the county and the President of the Advisory Board serving as chairman. The purpose of this committee is to present and discuss various problems concerning crop production and to formulate solutions and methods of dealing with these problems. They assist with the location of plots for demonstrations, many times carrying out these demonstration themselves for the benefit of others. Their findings and results are reported to the Advisory Board at their regular meetings.

4-H CLUBS

Membership of five (5) organized clubs represents 79 girls and 74 boys carrying a total of 161 projects.

Summary of 4-H Club Projects:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ENROLLED</u>	<u>COMPLETIONS</u>
Corn	16	6
Tobacco	4	2
Vegetable growing	29	10
Potatoes	1	1
Forestry	2	1
Poultry	27	10
Beef cattle	2	2
Swine	21	9

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<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>MEMBERS ENROLLED</u>	<u>COMPLETIONS</u>
Rabbits	5	2
Electricity	4	4
Beautification of Home Grounds	24	16
Health, first aid	1	1
Room Improvement	11	9
Safety	14	10

A total of 83 completions were made during the year.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

PASTURE DEMONSTRATIONS

Mr. T. H. Allen	Dillwyn, Virginia	Oats, Barley, & Rye
Mr. J. C. Henderson	New Canton, Virginia	Orchard Grass- Ladino Clover
Mr. J. M. Brown	Dillwyn, Virginia	Orchard Grass- Ladino Clover

100 BUSHEL CORN CLUB

Mr. W. O. Woolridge	Gladstone, Virginia	Pioneer 312A
Mr. Adolphus Mitchell	Cumberland, Virginia	Southern States 903W

FORESTRY DEMONSTRATIONS

Mr. Joseph Spencer	Gladstone, Virginia	Thinning
Mr. Joseph Anderson	Dillwyn, Virginia	Seedlings
Mr. Allen Gooden	Buckingham, Virginia	Seedlings

TORACCO DEMONSTRATION

Mr. William Osborne	Curdsville, Virginia	Fertilizer
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PASTURE DEMONSTRATION

The pastures in Buckingham County are improving considerably, yet they do not meet the full need of farmers. Much of the land now in use is inadequate and could be used advantageously if recommended practices were carried out.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage the use of more winter pasture.
- 2- To encourage more farmers to use recommended practices.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Field Meetings at pasture demonstrations.
- 2- Farm visits.
- 3- Circular letters.
- 4- Discussing pasture situation with cattle men and the Advisory Board members.

RESULTS

The Agronomy Committee and other interested persons visited the farm of Mr. J. C. Henderson, New Canton, to observe an orchard grass-ladino clover demonstration. This demonstration was seeded at the rate of 1 pound of Ladino Clover to 6 pounds of orchard grass.

Another demonstration plot was set up on the farm of Mr. James M. Brown, Dillwyn, Va., consisting of 20 acres with the same rate of seeding and mixture use in the plot above.

One winter pasture demonstration on the farm of Mr. T. H. Allen, Dillwyn, Va., has been set up. A field meeting at this demonstration is planned in the near future. It is hoped that this demonstration will encourage more cattle growers to use a winter pasture.

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CORN

Most all of the farmers in Buckingham County produce corn as it is very necessary for livestock and poultry. The average yield is very low because they fail to use recommended practices, such as: recommended seed, proper fertilizer, and proper management. The results of not using these recommendations have taken its toll in the corn crop in the county and many farmers find that it is necessary for them to purchase corn when it could have been successfully grown at home.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage more farmers to follow recommended practices.
- 2- To get 5 farmers to increase yield per acre by 15 bu.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Farm visits.
- 2- Circular letters.
- 3- Field meetings at demonstrations.
- 4- Use of slide film and movie pictures on corn production.

RESULTS

None of the 100 bushel corn club members were able to produce 100 bu. this year, however, of the 17 members pledging to increase their yield by 15 bu., 8 reported an increase over last year; 3 reported more than 15 bu. increase; and 6 reported that their crops had been hampered by the dry weather.

FORESTRY DEMONSTRATION

Farmers here find it expedient to learn more about forestry products. Buckingham County has been a high producer of these products but at present more trees are being harvested than produced. This has caused a great decrease in off farm employment as well as in the amount of forestry products harvested. Because of this, more emphasis now is being placed on "Plant More Trees". Much of the land that could be used for this purpose is being sold to large cooperations and many of the farmers still fail to see the advantage in planting trees for their own use.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage more farmers to plant more trees.
- 2- To encourage more farmers to carry out recommended thinning and selective cutting practices.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Forest seeding demonstration.
- 2- Farm visits.
- 3- News Articles.
- 4- Circular letters.
- 5- Organize forestry club.

RESULTS

Mr. Joseph Anderson, Dillwyn, Va. was crowned "Forestry King" for the year. He was awarded a certificate for having planted more seedlings during the year than any other farmer. Mr. Allen Gooden

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Buckingham, Va. won second place and was also awarded a certificate.

Mr. Joseph Spencer, Gladstone, Va. was awarded a certificate for the best management practices carried out during the year. Mr. Spencer has continued his thinning and selected cutting practices started last year and now has six acres thinned and cut over.

TOBACCO DEMONSTRATION

Tobacco still the most important cash crop in Buckingham County, yet most farmers are below the county average in production. During the past year, many farmers have produced good crops, yet the quality of tobacco is not up to standard. A large number of farmers are using their own seed and this resulting in poor quality tobacco for marketing purposes. Wetting down tobacco to bring it in order has also reduced the quality for marketing purposes.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage farmers to reduce the moisture content in their tobacco before marketing.
- 2- To encourage farmers to use recommended seed and fertilizer.
- 3- To get more farmers to take soil samples of fields.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES

- 1- Field meetings at demonstration.
- 2- Farm visits.
- 3- Circular letters.
- 4- New Articles.
- 5- Making available marketing data.

RESULTS

A demonstration continued on the farm of Mr. William Osborne,

Curdsville, Va. using recommended seed and amount of fertilizer--was again very successfully carried out this year. The results of this demonstration was viewed by many and all agreed that there is an advantage in using these practices.

The demonstrations on sucker control were not conducted this year. The results of previous demonstrations proved that this method of sucker control produced a heavy leaf that was not very suitable for marketing purposes.

BEEF CATTLE

This project just started in the county seems to be one of the best at the present time. Many of our farmers are working off the farm and this seems to be the best way for some to supplement their income and at the same time utilize some of the idle land on hand. This will also give them some ready income when needed if proper management practices are carried out.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage farmers now raising beef cattle to secure at least one registered bull.
- 2- To encourage more farmers to supplement their income by including beef cattle in their farming program.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES.

- 1- Field meetings at beef cattle herds.
- 2- Farm visits .
- 3- Circular letters.
- 4- Attending livestock sales.

RESULTS

There are three beef cattle growers in the county on a large scale. The largest of these being Mr. James M. Brown, Dillwyn, Va. followed by Mr. Thomas Allen and Mr. J. C. Henderson.

The purchase on one registered bull on the farm of Mr. T. H. Allen has proved very successful and he is planning to enlarge his beef cattle project next year. Much improvement has been made in the grade on his animals through the use on this registered animal.

POULTRY

Many of the farmers in Buckingham County raise poultry as a main source of income. The county places twelfth in the state in producing Broilers and ranks high in the production of eggs.

OBJECTIVES

- 1- To encourage better management practices among broiler growers.
- 2- To encourage farmers to construct houses suitable for winter production.

METHOD OF ACCOMPLISHING OBJECTIVES.

- 1- Farm visits.
- 2- Demonstrations at broiler houses.
- 3- Circular letters.
- 4- Making available market information.

RESULTS

Due to the drop in prices of eggs and broilers, many of our farmers are not at present raising poultry, however, many of them are trying to increase their capacity in order to realize more income.

Mr. J. C. Henderson, New Canton, Va. has built a 2,000 capacity house,

suitable for the production of broilers during the winter. He plans to use this house as a starter for his chicks and transfer them to another house in order to place another group in the winterized house.

SUMMARY

Completing another year as Local Farm Agent in Buckingham County; the Extension work in the county is slowly coming back to life. During 1959, the extension agent made 374 Farm and home visits conducting extension work in the county. There were 250 office calls and 269 telephone calls seeking assistance from the extension agent. 1,708 bulletins were distributed to the farmers in the county along with many circular letters. There was a total of 63 4-H and adult meetings attended by 1,528 people, held during the year.

Major activities during the year included -- County Agricultural Advisory Board meetings, 4-H Club meetings, field meetings, State Advisory Board meeting, 4-H Short Course, Wildlife Conference, Farm and Home Week Conference, Leaders Conference, Junior Council Meeting, and Adult farmer meetings.

Other activities include; Five County fair, State Fair, Junior Market Hog Show and Sale, Field meetings at experimental stations, observance of National 4-H club week, rural life Sunday, Annual 4-H club picnic, Achievement day, and participation in Tractor Maintenance School.

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Through the splendid cooperation of Teachers, Ministers, Local Leaders, Clubs, and various agencies throughout the County and State, the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors, Extension personnel and other interested persons, the Local Farm Agent of Buckingham County was helped and encouraged in promoting better living conditions among farms and homes in the county. To these, the Agent wishes to express his sincere thanks.