

purebred gilts or barrows. Now fourteen individuals, including four 4-H members, have secured one purebred Yorkshire gilt each.

In addition, the Swine Improvement Club, which consists of members of the livestock committee, has secured two registered males to improve the type of swine in the County.

As further evidence of interest in the livestock program, three 4-H members purchased one registered dairy heifer each as foundation stock in their dairy project program.

One can see a combination of a farm tour, livestock show and sale, a livestock committee and circulars as distinctive tools in creating interest in proven stock in the County livestock program.

It must be said, however, that there was an increase in the number of farmers marketing their wheat, rather than using it as feed for livestock, but we would like to see a more county-wide participation in this side of the program.

It is true, also, that there was a vast increase in the number of farmers using the recommended varieties and fertilizer applications to reach their goal in small grain yield; however, we would also like to see more county-wide participation in this part of the program.

A small number of farmers sow barley for feed for the livestock, but again the participation by number is too small.

These results obtain although we have tried, by various methods, to: (1) stress increase of yield of small grains; (2) advise the marketing of wheat, and (3) encourage the use of other grains for livestock. We feel that the small gains each year, although imperceptible, will, in time become satisfying and what we desire them to be.

LIVESTOCK

The objective in livestock was to create interest in proven stock.

The methods used were: (1) farm visits and tours; (2) judging demonstrations; (3) 4-H Club demonstrations; (4) circulars (5) livestock committee and (6) visits to livestock show and sale.

Last year only six farmers in Macon district owned purebred sows. As a result of the show of these animals at the County Fair and a farm tour, fifteen 4-H members and their parents purchased

tobacco and a keener interest in the recommended practices in controlling diseases and insects. The result of this is due largely to a small group meeting, and a result demonstration conducted in Ballsville community, in addition to a grading demonstration conducted by a tobacco specialist.

HAY

The primary objective in the County hay project was to initiate a program to help alleviate the feed shortage through increasing quantity and quality of hay grown to meet the consumptive demand.

The work was carried out through farm visits, circulars, community field meetings, and result demonstrations. These were the tools used in getting a number of farmers to increase the quantity and quality of hay.

Records show that this is the third time in six years that the majority of the farmers have raised a supply of hay to meet their farm needs. Characteristic of this group is Mr. E. D. Turner, whose hay demonstration in the County was considered the most outstanding demonstration in the County by the Agronomy Committee.

SMALL GRAIN

While the situation in regard to small grain seemed to be almost static this year, there was no loss as far as the overall objective was concerned. The increase in yield needed in this area was negligible, and our other objectives failed to materialize to an effective degree.

of families who supply their in-season needs, but who also have produced enough vegetables to meet their needs during the winter months.

LANDSCAPING

There is a trend, now, for greater emphasis on the embellishment of the home grounds with shrubs, and the stressing of a green, well-kept lawn. This trend has communicated itself to many of our farm families, and we have been asked for advice in this area.

This interest has been further demonstrated by the number of 4-H Club members who have taken Home Ground Beautification as a project. Consequently, pamphlets have been sent out, and suggestions given in this area.

During the growing season, this increased interest in landscaping has evidenced itself in the well-kept church lawns as well as in the farm home grounds. The power mower is not a strange or unusual sight--not even in those areas which are not closely populated.

With many of the larger stores and the former "dime" stores catering to this interest, there is a constant effort by many of our farm families to improve the landscape of their homes by following recommended practices in both layout and choice of shrubs.

TOBACCO

The primary objectives in tobacco were to encourage the farmers to use recommended practices in controlling diseases and insects, and to improve the techniques in grading to meet the market demand.

There was a change of attitude in the techniques of grading

farmers with plans to follow recommended practices. There was a vast increase in the number of farmers taking soil samples before planting their crops. Typical of this group were a number of tobacco farmers in Ballsville and Tobaccoville communities. In these two communities more than 50% of the farmers took a soil sample of their tobacco land before planting the crop. Records from the County ACP office show that Willie D. Hobson, one of the farmers in the soil sample group, produced the largest number of pounds per acre in the County. Without a doubt, the application of the recommended measures from the soil sample sheet were deciding factors in this tobacco production on the Hobson farm.

To further strengthen the Extension program along this phase, next year the agronomy committee plans to secure more cooperation from the Soil Conservation Service and encourage farmers with plans to have them revised to meet their needs.

GARDEN

With many persons in a rural area such as this, working in a nearby urban area, the family garden has not had the important place in the family life it formerly had.

In our County, however, we have had an opportunity to help many of these families by the encouragement of the garden as a project by a 4-H Club member. In addition to this, by stressing the planting of an adequate year-around garden by both farm and non-farm families, we have records to show that there is not only an increase in the number

3. Field meetings and demonstrations

The general interest and participation in forest management and reforestation has gradually improved, yet has not reached complete satisfaction. The largest number of participants the program has had was with eighteen 4-H Club members, who planted a total of 11,500 pine seedlings. As a result of the 4-H Club participation and demonstrations, parents and neighbors became more interested in the forestry program, particularly the reforestation phase.

Typical of this group was the J.S. Hobson family of Mohemenco community, who spot planted 21 acres of seedlings. In addition, ten other farmers spot planted a total of forty acres or a total of four acres each.

SOIL CONSERVATION

The conservation of soil is one of the major problems in the County. Intensive row crop farming has subjected the soil to erosion, leaching and other soil depleting forces. There is a definite shortage of personnel in the soil conservation service in the County. Therefore, there is little or no appreciation for a soil conservation plan.

The objectives were:

1. To encourage more farmers to apply for soil conservation plans
2. To create a greater interest in taking soil samples

The work was carried on by group meetings, with the agricultural conservation program manager, farm visits, demonstrations and getting

A news article was written on the pasture improvement, stating the number of persons present and the keynote speaker for the evening. It was also announced that the first farmer in any of the three magisterial districts who made a vast improvement in his pasture program would receive public recognition from the agronomy committee.

Five farmers from two magisterial districts completed their pasture projects about the same date, in addition to several others at a later date. As the result of the progress of these gentlemen in their pasture program, a community tour was conducted, whereby each individual was able to give the ways and means he used in establishing his pasture and the benefits derived from same.

The plans for the agronomy committee next year are for greater participation in the agricultural conservation program, and a county-wide pasture tour.

FORESTRY

With the growing demand for forest products, we feel that too much attention cannot be placed on forestry management. The amount of forestry products marketed is incomparable with the amount of reforestation in the County.

The objectives were:

1. To create a greater interest and appreciation in forestry
2. To encourage more farmers to plant pine seedlings

The methods used were:

1. Small group meetings
2. Circulars and bulletins

A small group meeting was held in each of the three magisterial districts where the demonstration was conducted. Farmers in these respective districts had an opportunity to see a corn demonstration carried out according to recommended practices.

As a result of the demonstration projects, and the exhibit of corn at the County Fair, a number of farmers have expressed an interest in following recommended practices in their corn production program.

PASTURE

The market demand is for better livestock, and the problem of the farmer is to produce cheaper feed. Therefore, we feel that too much attention could not be placed on pasture improvement. The acreage of recommended pasture is too small for the number of livestock in the County. The number of farmers using A.C.P. practices is below par for the County.

Our major objectives in this area were: To encourage management of established permanent pasture; to create a greater interest in supplementary pasture and to encourage farmers to establish permanent pasture through the Agriculture Conservation Program.

To initiate this program, circular letters and bulletins were mailed to the farmers, inviting them to attend an improvement pasture meeting, sponsored by the County Agronomy Committee. The manager of the local agricultural conservation program lead a discussion on the requirements and advantages of a supplementary and permanent pasture program for the local farmers.

COUNTY-WIDE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Last year our major county-wide community project was the continuation of a renovating program on the Fair Association building begun in 1958. This County project is as yet incomplete, though the building is much improved in appearance, and there are other tentative plans in the offing for the further improvement of this building. Two such plans are the completion of the upstairs, and the addition of running water and toilet facilities.

In addition to the renovation of the Fair Association building -- which consisted mainly of outside work: brick siding, new roof, new windows and cement porch -- the 4-H Leaders Council sponsored the creation of a recreational center in the rear, downstairs area of the building. This project, while sponsored by the Leaders Council, was county-wide in its scope. Labor, money and supplies came from boys, girls and citizens of the entire county.

HYBRID CORN

There is a gradual increase in the over-all yield of corn in the county, however, the yield is still too small in proportion to the number of acres planted. A number of farmers are not using recommended varieties of corn and sufficient fertilizer to meet their needs.

The objective was to create a greater interest in the recommended varieties of corn and fertilizer.

According to data from the Agronomy Committee, six demonstrators agreed to carry out the project according to recommended practices.

of the Fair activities. These types of activities have helped to develop and improve the leadership system in the County.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Although this office has tried to respond to the challenge of the farm and home development program in a manner that would make our particular project a problem no longer, due to many factors we have found it impossible to make as drastic a change for the better as we would like to make in a given period of time.

The R. H. Hatcher family of Trenholm community has been selected as the farm and home development family. The major farm and home problems were identified and goals outlined. The following accomplishments have been made: four pieces of large equipment purchased; laying house constructed; a reforestation project completed by one 4-H member of the family; farm and home record system established; family hospitalization policy secured; participation in agricultural conservation program and field crops stripped according to recommended practices.

Last year, future plans for further development were listed. Of these plans, many have had to be kept in the realms of the future for financial reasons. However, there has been a little progress made this year, in that there was a settlement of over-hanging debts, and an improvement in livestock project.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR

The annual Powhatan County Agricultural Fair was held September 17th through 19th at the County Fair Grounds. There were 612 items entered. These exhibits represented 170 homes and farms, 7 Four-H Clubs and 5 educational exhibits displayed by the County school.

Friday has been designated as "Children's Day" since the early history of the Fair, and was so designated this year, with school dismissed that the children might participate in the youth program and have a chance to see the exhibits.

One point of interest, looked forward to by the boys in particular, was the tractor operators contest for 4-H Club members. This, having become an annual part of the Fair, is planned and practiced for by the participants, weeks before the Fair opens.

As on last year, the 4-H Club Sears Poultry Project drew much interest, and the swine project, conducted by the livestock committee, presented a noticeable improvement in the number of participants over last year.

Although improved modes of transportation and good roads have caused the small county fairs to suffer in comparison with the State and larger area fairs, we feel our County Fair still has a place in the affairs of our people. It serves as an educational factor in teaching adults and 4-H members to recognize and exhibit good quality farm products and handiwork. Leaders are given an opportunity to exercise their abilities in all phases of the development and promotion

under the supervision of the leaders. It was culminated by the serving of refreshments.

In Four-H Club projects there has been a trend toward refinement in certain areas. While, some years ago, in planning the purchase of livestock or poultry, the question was "how many" birds or stock to purchase. Now in these same areas the question may still be how many, but the emphasis is placed on what breed of registered proven stock. While this has come about mainly because of the trend of their parents to purchase registered stock, it was further emphasized by leaders through suggestions and materials from this office.

FOUR-H CLUB JUNIOR COUNCIL

The 4-H Club Council is composed of the leaders and 6 members from each club. Meetings were held to: (1) plan the County-wide activities, (2) select community club projects and (3) to evaluate programs of work, clubs and County activities.

In our last report, mention was made of the independence and self reliance shown by the junior members in planning and carrying out plans for activities in the County. This year the same initiative was demonstrated, sparked by the unusual leadership ability of one of the junior leaders in the County, Caralease Cox. In these demonstrations, moreover, the junior members remained pliable and amenable to the guidance and counseling of the senior leaders.

We feel it has been largely through the work of the leaders in this Council that the activities of the 4-H Clubs in this County have run so smoothly.

While this project did not come up to the expectations of the Council, as far as parent participation was concerned, those present expressed interest and enjoyment in the program of the night, the plans for further expansion of the Center to offer certain arts and crafts, and the social hour that followed.

One feature of the program was a film, "FOUR-H IN ACTION".

FOUR-H CLUB WORK

To most of the boys and girls actively participating in 4-H Club work, 1959 has been a banner year.

We have 187 boys and girls enrolled in seven 4-H Clubs this year. Of this number, there was a project completion of over 69%. Since this County is primarily rural, projects in corn, livestock, poultry, forestry and home beautification represent a large measure of completion.

Last year marked the first tangible benefits of the Sears and Roebuck Poultry chain, a project initiated in this county by one of the club leaders. This project was continued in 1959 with satisfactory results.

On June 12, 1959, the 4-H Club Center had its formal opening. This project, sponsored by the County 4-H Leaders Council, was rocketed to success by the work of the boys, girls and citizens of the County. They were given a "piccolo", and the leaders worked to make this opening night a success. The club members spent the evening dancing or playing ping-pong, and socializing

FOUR-H CLUB MEETINGS

Thirteen training meetings were held in seven sections of the County, with an attendance of 173 leaders, which involved men, women, boys and girls. The purpose of these meetings was to acquaint the leaders with the 4-H Club situation as it existed in the County and State, and how they might assist in the Extension program in helping to strengthen this phase of the Extension program by working with the boys and girls in their respective communities. Major problems were identified by an objective analysis of the situation. Four areas were outlined in orientating the leaders into the 4-H Club work: (1) duties and functions of 4-H Club leaders, (2) training, (3) demonstrations and (4) duties of 4-H Club parents. All other activities were made to follow.

The Powhatan County 4-H Leaders Council has taken a giant step this year. This involved, for one thing, their active participation in the setting up of a 4-H Club Center in the County Fair Building. Club leaders raised funds for this project, worked with the boys and girls in cleaning and paint jobs, and served as hostesses on the official opening night. This opening night found the Center attractively decorated in green and white paper, with the windows curtained with 4-H Club emblematic material, and was culminated with free refreshments -- all activities carried out by the leaders, even to the making and putting up of the curtains.

Another activity sponsored by the Council was "Parents Night".

Although there has been little change in the modus operandi of this organization, it has continued its work, holding meetings to discuss and iron out problems of finance, organization, operation, public relations and membership. During these meetings the organization approved and purchased for the sixth year a state recorded license as a cooperative. In participating each year in this cooperative, the members have realized a definite profit in the operation of their various farms.

COMMUNITY CLUBS

Through the establishment of the Community Clubs, an area difficult to reach has been covered to some degree. In all projects there are certain individuals and families who evince interest in, and give cooperation to, suggestions for their own good and the good of the community, on the other hand, there are those who will not attend meetings or respond to overtures and suggestions sent from the Extension office. Strangely enough, many of these hard-to-reach individuals make a definite response to the Live-at Home programs through the Community Clubs.

In their programs of work, each club plans a project which they work on during the year, with the idea of pressing to greater goals through competition. In keeping with the tenets of the clubs, each year a different project for improvement is set up, with the idea of continuing and improving projects of previous years.

- b. Recommendations on strengthening activities to improve the extension program for the next year

TRAINING MEETINGS HELD FOR LOCAL LEADERS

Thirty-eight training meetings were held in the County during the year. Thirteen of these meetings were for adults, twelve for young men's work, and thirteen for 4-H Club work.

The meetings were held in the various communities where the Extension program had been definitely established, and in other communities to initiate the Extension work.

The purpose of the adults and young men's meetings was to acquaint these farm and rural non-farm people with the general situation as it existed in our County, and to suggest ways and means of improving the same with the assistance and recommendations of the leaders. These leaders were encouraged to carry back to their various families and communities, information they had received while attending these meetings, with determination to put into practice all phases that were practical or possible, among the farm and rural non-farm people.

YOUNG MEN'S WORK

The young men's work in the County presents a picture of interest manifest through growth and progress. This group was formerly the Institutional-on-Farm-Training class of the County. When the class became inactive, this group organized into the Powhatan County Agricultural Cooperative.

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

The County Advisory Board is the principal organization in the County. It consists of representatives from each community in the County, which includes 40 men and 20 women. The Board meets every quarter, and assists in carrying out the year's program.

This organization elected officers this year, and accepted a program of work from its committee that was planned in keeping with the local county situation.

The Board has an executive committee which consists of 9 members, namely: president, secretary and treasurer of the organization, and 2 members from each magisterial district. (All law powers granted are vested in the executive committee).

Some of the activities in the regular meeting of the Advisory Board were:

1. Planning meeting
 - a. Report of surveys
 - b. Appointment of committees to carry out different phases of the extension program

2. Recommendation meeting
 - a. Four-H Club program organization
 - (1) Four-H Club leaders organization
 - b. Community organization
 - (1) Community clubs
 - (2) Farm and home development
 - c. County agronomy committee
 - d. County livestock committee

3. Progress meeting
 - a. Final report of all activities conducted during the year, out-lining progress made in each area

4. Evaluation meeting
 - a. Final report of all committee activities planned to improve the extension program for the next year

THE COUNTY SITUATION

Powhatan County is located in the central section of Virginia. It lies in the lower Piedmont Plateau, with the James River as its northern boundary, and the Appomattox River as its southern. The land area covers 273 square miles, or 171,520 acres; the water area covers four square miles.

Four-fifths of the total land is in forest, and there are numerous sawmills. While much of the woodland is on farms, lumber companies now hold acreages which were once farmed.

Agriculture is Powhatan's principal industry. The bottom lands along the James and Appomattox Rivers are especially good, and some of the largest and best farms are found here. General farm crops are grown. Tobacco has diminished greatly in the past twelve years, while pastures have greatly increased and improved to provide for the steady increase of beef cattle and dairy herds. Dairy products yield over two-fifths of all farm sales. Poultry products about one-fifth, and livestock sales about one-fifth.

Most of the land in Powhatan County is on a gentle to steep rolling slope, and requires major conservation practices to obtain the maximum benefits. The climate is mild. Precipitation is about forty inches annually. The principal types of soil are: cecil fine sandy loam, seneca, alluvial, helena, appling, cecil sandy loam wilkes and sandy loam. These soils are best suited to such crops as hay, small grain, pasture, corn and dark tobacco. The fact that the soil provides these kind of crops has increased the livestock in the County.

PREFACE

As in previous reports, we have tried to make a clear-cut and accurate account of the work carried on by this office through Agricultural Extension Work in Powhatan County from December 1, 1958 to November 30, 1959. We have endeavored to show the methods used, the results obtained, and the final evaluation of progress made through certain methods of analyzing the situation and identifying and rating problems.

In most areas of the work, there have been successes and failures, with some remaining static, seemingly impervious to all methods to bring about desirable changes. We feel, however, that the report will show definite contributions to a better standard of living, plus human interest and the intangible results of good will and understanding.

While this report is made from this office, it really represents a cooperative effort of many agencies and individuals — the citizens of the County, the leaders, boys and girls of the County 4-H Clubs, the Extension specialists and other State officers and State agencies.

Acknowledgement is made to these various agencies and individuals for their invaluable assistance and cooperation.

November 30, 1959

E. L. Lewis
Local Farm Agent

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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Title

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1959

Fountain
County