

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1959

Cumberland
County

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I. DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Cumberland County is located in the Southern Piedmont section of Virginia. The average size of farms was 113 acres in 1945, and 122.2 acres in 1955. In 1945 there were 1,227 farms in the county and in 1955 there were 977 farms. The population dropped from 7,505 in 1940 to 7,252 in 1950. Cumberland is strictly a rural agricultural county, as there are no urban areas and no industry to speak of in the county.

Poultry, dairy, and general livestock have increased greatly in the past 10 years. General crops are grown over the entire county, with tobacco being the main cash crop, bringing in 32.6% of the entire farm income.

Cropland harvested in 1945 was 25,427 acres, and in 1955 was 21,919 acres. At the same time cattle numbers have increased from 5,590 in 1945 to 8,864 in 1955. The value of chickens sold has increased from \$98,935 in 1950 to \$479,264 in 1955. The number of chickens sold has increased from 110,740 in 1950 to 754,575 in 1955. The number of turkeys raised has increased from 3,059 in 1945 to 42,745 in 1955.

II. COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The county organization that is being used in Cumberland County is known as the County Agricultural Extension Service Board.

Special Interest Committees have been set up on agronomy, livestock, poultry, dairy, and forestry. These committees have met several times to study the county situation and set up long time goals, and what should be done in 1959 toward reaching these goals. Also these committees have organized and set up each member on a rotational basis in regard to the number of years he should serve on the committee.

III. GENERAL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF THE COUNTY

The following are the major problems and needs of the county as determined by the committees of the Agricultural Extension Service Board and the Extension agents: marketing facilities for poultry, inadequate feed program for livestock, disease and insect control in crops, low crop yields in certain sections of the county, disease and parasite control in livestock, and the management of our farm woods.

The following are some of the major enterprises and projects that the agents have stressed and promoted in Cumberland County in 1959. The program was followed with the assistance of the County Agricultural Extension Service Board, county professional agricultural workers, district agent, specialists, and others.

IV. AGRONOMY

A. Pastures

- a. The county pasture program, with a few exceptions, has been progressing very well. Our acreage in improved pastures has increased, and the number of grazing days has increased greatly the past few years. Many of our pastures have been reseeded, but due to price-cost squeeze, many farmers have not been financially able to reseed and fertilize. There is a need for proper fertilizing and managing our pastures, also a need for seeding additional acres in order to give a system that will provide the maximum number of grazing days.
- b. The immediate recognized needs were to reseed the stands that have died out, proper fertilization, proper management, and seeding additional acres to improved mixtures that will give the maximum number of grazing days.
- c. In 1959, farmers were encouraged to reseed pastures that have died out, take more soil samples and follow recommendations. Also, the county-wide pasture program was continued. Farmers were urged to practice controlled grazing.
- d. The program was taken to the people by the use of radio, news articles, circular letters, posters, signs, bulletins, farm visits, general meetings, and organized tours.
- e. The seeding and reseeding program was stressed in the winter and early spring, and again before the proper seeding date in the fall. Soil testing was also stressed at this time. The tour was held in the latter part of July.
- f. The county agronomy committee, livestock committee, pasture committee, Extension agents and other professional agricultural workers cooperated in carrying out the pasture program.

Accomplishments

The following accomplishments were made toward reaching the goals as set up in the 1959 Plan of Work:

1. Approximately 550 acres of pasture was reseeded that was not providing an ample number of grazing days.
2. Approximately 1100 acres of additional permanent pasture was seeded in mixtures that would best fit in the county program in order to increase the number of grazing days on the farm.
3. The agents worked with 12 farmers who had not been managing

their pastures properly, encouraging them to top-dress, graze rotationally, etc.

Eight of these farmers made definite improvements in their management practices.

4. Five farmers who had not been seeding supplemental pastures, seeded one or more acres in 1959.

The following were used to promote the pasture program in 1959: The Extension agronomy, livestock and dairy committees, professional agricultural workers, specialists, timely radio programs, news articles, circular letters, bulletins, farm visits, general meetings and farm tours.

3. Hybrid Corn

- a. It is estimated that our farmers are using an average of 500 lbs. of fertilizer per acre on their corn, however, there are some who use much less than this. There are still some farmers who do not use hybrid corn or follow good management practices. Also many farmers still grow corn on land unsuited for row crops.
- b. The immediate needs were to get farmers to plant corn only on land suitable for cultivated crops, and get more farmers to use recommended varieties and follow good cultural and fertilization practices.
- c. In 1959 all farmers were sent a list giving the recommended varieties. Information was given out on proper fertilization and cultural practices. Also, information on recommended varieties, fertilizer recommendations, etc. were given to all fertilizer and seed dealers in order to keep them informed.

Accomplishments

1. It is estimated that the average yield of corn in Cumberland County for 1959 was approximately 50 bushels per acre.
2. At least seven farmers sprayed for weed control in their corn in 1959.
3. The agents worked with 12 farmers who had not been soil testing for corn, having them take a soil test and fertilize according to recommendations.
4. The agents worked with 9 farmers in getting them to plant at least a portion of their crop to a recommended variety. These were farmers who had not been planting a recommended hybrid.

C. Small Grain

- a. The Agronomy Committee feels that our yields of small grains are in line with other crops. The yield has increased greatly the past few years, but there are still some farmers who are getting yields much below average. They feel that the greatest need today is to have all farmers seed good clean recommended seed, make a good seed bed preparation and use proper amounts of fertilizer. They also feel that all farmers should treat their seed for diseases before seeding.
- b. The immediate recognized needs were to raise the yield of the low yield producing farmer up to the county average, which was 24.8 bu. per acre for wheat in 1955; 39.5 bu. per acre for oats; 30.7 bu. per acre for barley; and 30.6 bu. per acre for mixed grains.
- c. In 1959 farmers were urged to try new varieties recommended for the county the first time, also take soil samples and apply proper amounts of fertilizer and lime. Farmers were urged to seed the recommended varieties and follow recommended methods of seed treatment.
- d. The program will be taken to the people by use of the agronomy committee, radio, news articles, circular letters, farm visits, and bulletins.
- e. All of the above educational programs were presented at least one month before seeding dates, and again immediately before the seeding dates for the crop concerned.
- f. The agronomy committee, Extension agents, professional workers cooperated to carry out the program.

Accomplishments

1. The agents worked with a number of farmers whose average yields were below the county average to try to increase their yields 1%. Even though these farmers carried out recommended practices, the county yield was way below average due to extreme weather conditions.
2. At least 11 farmers treated their grain before seeding who had not been doing so in the past.
3. At least 4 farmers sprayed their small grain for control of garlic or onions.

D. Winter Cover Crops

- a. There are a number of farmers who seed winter cover crops each year, however, there is a lot of land that is left out each winter with no cover.
- b. The immediate recognized needs were to have a green crop on all cropland during the winter months.
- c. Stressed winter cover crops at every available opportunity. Also stressed the fact that these crops could be used for temporary pasture and silage, and that if a legume was included in the mixture they would receive a large amount of cheap nitrogen.
- d. The program was taken to the people by radio, press, farm visits, and general meetings.
- e. Farmers were constantly reminded throughout the year in regard to seeding all acres to some cover.

Accomplishments

- 1. At least 6% more acres were seeded to cover crops in 1959 than in 1958.

E. Tobacco

- a. Cumberland County grows four types of tobacco: Flue-Cured, Dark Fire-Cured, Dark Air-Cured and Burley. Our average yield on all types is very close to the state yield, and in some cases, exceeds it. However, our agronomy committee feels that we should try to get all tobacco growers to increase their yield at least up to the state average; also that we should strive to increase the quality of our tobacco. This could be done if everyone followed the recommendations from the experiment stations on varieties, fertilization, disease control, plant bed management, and proper curing and grading.
- b. The immediate recognized needs are to have all farmers have a per acre yield of at least the state average and also improve the quality of the tobacco grown in comparison to the increase in yield.
- c. In 1959 a county-wide tobacco meeting was held to discuss the marketing trend, tobacco disease situation, plant bed management, varieties, fertilization, and cultural and curing practices. Farmers were encouraged to take more soil samples and follow recommendations.
- d. The program was taken to the people by special meetings, radio, press, bulletins, and farm visits.

- e. The agronomy committee, Extension agents, and other professional agricultural workers cooperated in carrying out the program.

Accomplishments

1. In 1959 there were 272 known acres of alfalfa seeded in the county.
2. The average yield of alfalfa in Cumberland County was at least 3 tons per acre in 1959.
3. At least 2½% more clover grass hay was seeded in 1959 than in 1958.
4. Due to the educational program, practically all alfalfa growers left enough growth on their alfalfa fields this fall to prevent winter kill and provide food to strengthen the stand for 1960.

V. POULTRY

- a. In 1950 only 110,740 chickens were sold from Cumberland; in 1954, the number sold was 754,575. Also there are a large number of breeding and commercial laying flocks in the county, and the number of turkeys has jumped from 6,139 to 42,745.
- b. The immediate problems were an improved market outlet, a good management and sanitation program, a standard price scale for hatchery eggs, improved diagnostic laboratory facilities, and an improved stray dog law for the county; also proper construction of buildings.
- c. In 1959 the agents helped interested farmers in obtaining recommended plans for poultry houses and equipment, also in locating houses. Sanitation and management practices were stressed, also farmers were urged to buy chicks from reliable state hatcheries. Committees were to check to see what could be done to improve on the stray dog law and the diagnostic laboratory facilities.
- d. The program was taken to the people by radio, press, general meetings, bulletins, and farm visits.

Accomplishments

1. Three informative training meetings for poultry feed dealers in the area were held. One at Burkeville and two at Buckingham.
2. We now have a new up-to-date egg grading and receiving station located in Farville, which is large enough to handle any volume

of eggs produced in this county. Some improvement has been noted in the diagnostic laboratory facilities available to the county. Additional work needs to be done on the stray dog laws.

3. At least 25 poultrymen have been worked with by the agents, helping them improve the management and sanitation practices in their poultry operations.

VI. DAIRYING

- a. We now have 19 farmers selling Grade A milk, approximately 35 Grade B producers, and also several farmers who sell cream. This number has not changed much in the past 5 years, however, the number of cows has increased in most of the Grade A herds, and some of the Grade B.
- b. The immediate recognized needs were better dairy management, proper culling of cow herds, better quality milk, and the use of better herd sires.
- c. In 1959 farmers were encouraged to cull their herds and, if necessary, purchase some good high producing cows and also purchase and use good registered sires. Farmers were urged to continue to make use of the D.H.I.A. in the county and take advantage of the artificial breeding program that is available. Farmers were assisted with the construction of dairy barns, milking parlors, water systems, etc. Good management and sanitation practices were also stressed.
- d. The program was taken to the people by the dairy committee, radio, press, circular letters, bulletins, meetings and farm visits.
- e. The dairy committee, specialists, Extension agents and other professional agricultural workers cooperated on this program.

Accomplishments

1. As of September 30, 1959, 45% of all heifer calves in the county had been vaccinated against Bangs disease. This figure will be higher when the report for the last quarter is received. Also the percent of dairy heifers would be much higher than the percent of all heifers in the county.
2. The agents have assisted 8 farmers in culling their herds in order to get rid of unprofitable cows.
3. At least 5 farmers are breeding their cows artificially this year for the first time. Artificial breeding is now available

to farmers over the entire county.

4. The agents worked with 3 dairymen to encourage them to keep detailed records to be computed by IBM machines at V.F.I.

VII. GENERAL LIVESTOCK

- a. The number of beef cows has increased from 852 in 1950 to 2,275 in 1955. The hog and sheep numbers have remained fairly constant. In many cases the farmers have gone out for numbers of beef cows and neglected type, breeding, and quality. Some farmers are taking advantage of feeder calf sales for marketing their beef calves, but many are still marketing their calves through regular channels. In the future, farmers should become more type, breed, and quality conscious. Also farmers should sell more on a graded basis.
- b. The immediate recognized needs are improving the quality of livestock by culling, and in some cases, purchasing better animals; also by buying only good type registered sires. Farmers should also practice better feeding and management in the herd, and should take advantage of grading and marketing facilities available. Sheep numbers could be increased in the county and the quality could be improved.
- c. In 1959, sanitation, feeding, and management practices were stressed. Farmers selling beef calves were encouraged to sell them in feeder calf sales. Hog growers were encouraged to buy only locally grown pigs from healthy herds and follow a good sanitation and management practice.
- d. The program was taken to the people by radio, circular letters, tours, meetings, bulletins, farm visits and livestock committee.
- e. The Extension livestock committee, specialists, Extension agents and other professional agricultural workers cooperated to carry out the program.

Accomplishments

1. The agents have assisted 20 farmers in selecting good registered sires.
2. Five new members put calves in the feeder calf sale this year for the first time.
3. As of September 30, 1959, 45% of the heifer calves in the county had been vaccinated against Bangs Disease. This percent will be higher when the report is in for the last quarter.

4. Sheep numbers in the county have increased by at least 50 head in 1959.
5. The agents worked with 17 farmers, encouraging them to cull out all cows with dairy breeding and replace them with well bred beef cows or heifers.

VIII. HORTICULTURE

A. Home Vegetable Garden Production

- a. A large percentage of our county people have some type of home garden, however, a lot of these gardens are small and do not have a variety of vegetables. Also many do not have any fall garden.

Due to the high cost of living, the lack of money due to adverse weather conditions, and price-cost squeeze, it is more necessary than ever that every farm family have a good early and late garden.

- b. The immediate recognized needs were to have each farmer have a good well-rounded garden program.

Accomplishments

1. The agents stressed gardens at two monthly 4-H meetings to encourage 4-H Club members to plan and grow a better garden at home.
2. The agents provided all merchants and seed men information on recommended varieties, fertilizer and insecticides.

B. Fruits

- a. The only fruit trees we have are in small home orchards.

Accomplishments

1. The agents devoted one radio talk on the latest methods of pruning, spraying, and tree management. Also information on insects, diseases, and tree management was furnished all interested farmers.

C. Small Fruit

- a. Approximately 40% of our farmers have some type of small fruit plantings for home use. Also a few farmers sell some grapes and strawberries.
- b. It is felt that most of our farmers should attempt to grow

enough grapes and berries for their own use.

Accomplishments

1. At least 12 farmers planted a small plot of grapes or berries in 1959. This was accomplished by stressing the planting of small fruit at 4-H Club meetings, on the radio and on farm visits.

IX. FARM LABOR

The agents have assisted 16 farmers with farm labor problems in 1959.

X. AGRICULTURAL PLANNING

- a. In 1956, special interest committees were set up for agronomy, livestock, dairy, poultry and forestry. Each of these committees met a sufficient number of times to set up long-time goals and plan a program for reaching the goals.

Accomplishments

1. Each of the committees met a sufficient number of times to draw up plans for 1959 toward reaching their long-time program.
2. The following committees continued to work on problems affecting the county and the Rural Development Program: Industrial, Health, School & Education, Marketing, Cash Crops, Credit, Lighting, Housing, Home Beautification, Recreation, Publicity and Promotion, and Conservation and Watershed.

XI. FARM & HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- a. Since Cumberland is a Rural Development Pilot County, not as much emphasis has been put on the Farm and Home Development Program as some of our other projects. In 1959, 20 families were worked with in this program.

Accomplishments

1. The agents worked with 20 families on the Farm & Home Development Program in 1959. Seven of these families were worked with for the first time this year. The agents feel a great deal was accomplished with these families, however, there is a lot of planning and management problems that still need to be worked out with each of them.

XII. COOPERATIVES

The agents have continued to work with cooperatives in the county in an educational way.

XII. FORESTRY

- a. Two-thirds of Cumberland County is now in some type of woods. The timber and pulpwood on this land is being cut at a much faster rate than it is growing back. A large percentage of this land is growing up in worthless hardwoods.
- b. The immediate recognized needs were more selective cuttings of timber and farm forest improvement; also a need for planting more seedling pines on land not suited to crops and on land growing scrub hardwoods.
- c. In 1959 farmers were encouraged to improve their farm woods and to protect farm woods from fire and grazing.

Farmers and 4-H Club members were encouraged to plant pines on land that had been cut or burnt over, and land not suited for other farm practices. Also a hardwood poisoning demonstration would be continued.

- d. The program was taken to the people by radio, circular letters, press, tours, bulletins, meetings, and farm visits.
- e. A tour was held on the State Forest. The demonstration was conducted on Route No. 60, west of Cumberland.
- f. The forestry committee, Extension agents, specialists and the Virginia Forest Service cooperated on the program.

Accomplishments

1. In 1959, fifty-six 4-H Club members planted pine seedlings as a 4-H project in Cumberland County.
2. During the 1958-59 planting season the following seedlings were planted in Cumberland: Loblolly pine - 241,900, White pine - 1,000, Red Cedar - 4,000.
3. An educational tour through the Cumberland State Forest was held on October 29, 1959. All those who attended enjoyed the tour a great deal.
4. The agents have continued to work with the hardwood poisoning demonstration on Rt. # 60, west of Cumberland. This demonstration was set up in 1957 and is looking exceptionally good at the present time.

5. A post peeling and treating demonstration was held at the farm of J. A. Hazlegrove in April, 1959. This demonstration was well attended and all those present were very interested.

XIV. COUNTY FARM ORGANIZATIONS

The agents have continued to work with the county farm organizations in an educational way.

XV. 4-H CLUB WORK

- a. In 1949 there were three 4-H Clubs in the county with an enrollment of 67 boys. In 1959 there were 11 clubs organized in the county with an enrollment of 246 boys. This rate of increase cannot be continued as we are now reaching a very high percentage of the boys that are of club age.

The reasons for our increase in club enrollment are the cooperation of teachers, leaders and parents, and the breaking down of the clubs into age groups.

- b. The immediate recognized needs were to obtain more volunteer leaders and to add some additional joint projects which will interest high school boys and will not compete with F.F.A. projects; also provide more recreation for all club members.
- c. In 1959 an effort was made to try to get at least one volunteer leader for each club. Also joint projects were conducted in all clubs from the fifth grade up. Also more emphasis was placed on recreation and tours in all clubs.
- d. The program was taken to the people by using specialists, radio, press, circular letters, general meetings, 4-H meetings, special meetings, achievement day programs, tours, picnics, fairs, camps, and project visits.
- e. The 4-H picnics were held on the school grounds. The boys and girls attended 4-H Camp at Holiday Lake. The county achievement program was held at the Cumberland High School. Cumberland 4-H Club members exhibited at the Farmville Five County Fair. Tours were conducted to the Bremo Power Plant and to the State Game Farm.

Accomplishments

1. The 4-H Electric Project was conducted in all clubs from the sixth grade up. Representatives from the Virginia Electric and Power Company cooperated with the Extension agents in conducting the project.

2. Seventeen boys attended the district 4-H Camp at Holiday Lake, and six boys attended the State 4-H Short Course at V.P.I.
3. A 4-H Achievement Day Program was held in April, at which time medals were given out for each project taken. Also adult leaders were recognized for outstanding work they had done.
4. The Sears Roebuck 4-H Pig Project was sponsored in the Madison District with five boys receiving sow pigs and one boy receiving the boar pig.
5. Club members from all eleven 4-H Clubs and the Honor Club made exhibits at the Five County Fair at Farnville.
6. 4-H Club boys entered into four different events at the district contests at Farnville in April.
7. The sixth and seventh grade 4-H Clubs from Hamilton were taken on a tour of the Virginia Electric & Power Company plant at Bremo, and three clubs at Hamilton and one at John Randolph toured the State Game Farm.
8. The Cumberland 4-H Club held a Harvest Ball at Sunnyside in December. The party was well attended.
9. Fifty-six 4-H Club members planted pine seedlings as 4-H projects.
10. At least 85.6% of the 4-H Club members completed their project in 1959.

XVI. COOPERATION WITH ASC

The agent has continued to serve as ex-officio member to the county committee and has been in charge of educational work.

The radio, press, general meetings, and farm visits were used to publicize the program.

XVII. COOPERATION WITH DISTRICT SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

- a. Very few farmers are taking advantage of the complete soil conservation plan, however, many are following some conservation practices.

Accomplishments

1. The agents have used all available means of getting farmers to follow complete soil conservation plans.

2. A short time has been allotted the Soil Conservation Service at each farmers' meeting to discuss some soil conservation subject. The purpose of this was to help the Soil Conservation Service representative in making contacts with the farmers, and also help familiarize the farmers with the program.
3. The agents have worked with the S.C.S. representative and Soil Conservation Committee of the Rural Development Program in trying to start a watershed project in Cumberland County. Three watersheds have been studied but no project has been approved.

Radio, news articles, general meetings, and farm visits were used to promote the project.

XVIII. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- a. Since Cumberland County was selected to work on the Rural Development Program, the following steps have been taken: A meeting was held for the county leaders to be introduced to the program. A county rural development committee was selected. A chairman and secretary were elected for the county group. A survey was conducted to determine the industrial needs in the county, the available labor, etc. With the help of the Virginia Electric & Power Company representatives, a large county brochure was published containing all facts necessary for an industry to determine if it would like to come to the county. A small county brochure for wider publication has also been prepared and distributed.

County committees have been appointed to work on problems in the county in the following fields: Industry, health, education, marketing, cash crops, lighting, housing (home beautification), recreation, publicity and promotion, conservation & watershed, and finance.

The agents have continued to work with the various committees as technical advisors in 1959.

The following is the latest report of the various committees of the Rural Development Program:

General

- a. Cumberland County Rural Development Program was organized on June 29, 1956.
- b. There has been no change in make up of committees.
- c. We consider our program to be on a county basis.

- d. One assistant county agent and one assistant home agent are employed full-time and one Soil Conservation technician is employed part-time.
- e. We have organized in the county a Professional Workers Council which meets periodically and serves as a clearing house for rural development problems; also the various members of this committee are appointed as technical advisors to the various rural development committees.

Contributions of Private Firms, Organizations

A small brochure of the county, which includes pertinent information for those seeking to locate business firms, etc. has been completed under the sponsorship of the Industrial Committee of the Rural Development Program. This supplemented the large brochure which had been previously published. Assisting with compiling this brochure were Virginia Electric and Power Company, State Chamber of Commerce, Commonwealth Magazine, Farmville Herald, and County Board of Supervisors.

The County Board of Supervisors appropriated funds for publishing these small brochures.

Periodical reports of county rural development activities are sent to these organizations.

Research, Resource Studies, Inventories

Water Survey

1. Through the cooperation of the Vocational Agriculture Department and the county schools, a Water-for-Better-Living survey was conducted under the supervision of the Health Committee of the Rural Development Program.

The survey was made in order to have a sounder basis for educating farm families as to the value and importance of having running water in the homes and on the farms.

2. Lighting Survey

Improve Lighting in the Schools

The elementary schools have been inspected and recommendations have been made for adequate lighting by the Virginia Electric & Power Company specialist on public area lighting.

The outside lighting at the high school has been inspected and recommendations received.

The committee plans to continue work on this major objective.

Improvement of Entrance Lighting at Churches

One church has made arrangements to improve their entrance lighting. The committee will be glad to meet and talk with any church concerning their lighting questions or problems. The committee feels that members using their church regularly would know where additional lights would be of benefit because they know what areas are used at night.

Educate the People for Better Lighting for Study, Work and Play

"Light for Better Living" demonstration homes are being discussed with tours designed to educate the public about better lighting.

Reflectors on the curve in Cumberland village have been replaced at the request of the committee.

3. Education Survey

At the request of the Education Committee of the Rural Development Program, the State Board of Education conducted an extensive survey of the entire county school system. Also, a survey was conducted by the State Fire Marshall to check the fire hazards in the county schools.

As a result, the Education Committee has met at various times with the County School Board and County Board of Supervisors to discuss the results of the survey and to determine what steps could be taken to correct the situation.

The next meeting was a public meeting, to which the interested county citizens were asked to come before the County Board of Supervisors and the County School Board to discuss the proposed changes in the county school system.

The committee recommends that two new consolidated elementary schools be constructed - one for white and one for colored.

Agricultural Development

a. Cash Crops Committee

The Cash Crops Committee of the Rural Development Program made the following recommendations for new crops which may supplement the income of county farms.

1. Growing of alfalfa hay to be sold on a graded basis as a

cash crop.

2. Raising of more soybeans on farms suitable to this crop.
3. Raising of grain sorghum as a cash crop.
4. Expanding of Grade B milk production.
5. Increasing the laying flocks in the county.
6. Consider increasing number of sheep in county.

Since July 1, 1958 four new commercial laying houses have been built in the county. The capacity of these houses runs from 1,500 to 3,000.

In order to supplement their income, five farmers have built pig parlors in the past year.

In spite of low prices, the broiler industry has continued to expand in the county.

The changed emphasis in educational work has been to the individual family approach and special interest group meetings. For instance, the home agents are holding beginning sewing classes in the various communities in the county to train home-makers to sew, in order that the cost of clothing can be reduced.

To encourage home food preservation, the agents have conducted pressure cooker gauge testing clinics, which also included how to care for the pressure cooker.

As a result of visitation throughout the county, time management was a major problem in the homes. County-wide special interest meetings on time management have been held.

Greater emphasis on both the farm and home side is being placed on the home production of food.

Sixty-two families have been worked with through the farm and home development approach in solving problems in farm and home planning, farm and home management, housing, kitchens, laundry, etc.

The agents continue to work closely with the Cash Crops Committee in attempting to get new crops established in the county, also more intensified work has been done toward improving the live-stock and crops that are already grown in the county.

b. Credit Agencies

The Credit Committee of the County Rural Development Program requested a change for Cumberland County in the F.H.A. rules regarding poultry loans. They requested of the Administration to revise the lending authority in Cumberland County only, to allow the farm housing program to construct laying houses to take a maximum of 1000 birds instead of its present limit of 700 layers. Also to revise the instruction which prohibits the making of loans to poultry producers when the major source of income is from poultry only. This request was denied.

At a recent meeting of the Credit Committee, it was felt that more education was needed by the county people on the types of loans, etc. that were available. Information has been received from the Banks, Small Business Administration, Production Credit Association, Federal Housing Administration and Farmers Home Administration.

This information will be published in news articles and also will be made available by various sources to all of the people of the county.

Agricultural Marketing

The completion of the Lindsay-Robinson egg grading plant at Farnville has created a new marketing outlet for egg producers in the Farnville area. This is something that has held our egg production business to a minimum in the past.

As a result of this plant, two large laying houses with 1,500 and 5,000 capacities have been erected in Cumberland County and pullets put in within the past few months. There is a possibility that more farmers will take advantage of this marketing outlet in the future.

As a result of added work on the part of the Livestock & Marketing Committees, 35% more beef calves were marketed cooperatively through the organized Feeder Calf Sale in Richmond. These committees are continuing to work toward increasing this figure.

Livestock and Marketing Committees are working jointly with committees from other counties in the Richmond area in order to start a series of Feeder Pig Sales. These sales will be farmer-directed and set up similarly to the Feeder Calf Sales. Within the county a survey was made to determine the number of feeder pigs that could be expected to be entered in one of these sales.

Conservation and Forestry

- a. Worked on observational plantings of Midland Bermuda Grass and Curly Aspen.

Soil mapping has suffered because of conservation mapping needs.

The Rural Development Committee asked the county to request complete soil mapping of the county. This was passed by the County Board of Supervisors and it is hoped that we will get some action in the near future.

On-the-farm planning of conservation has been on the basis of an economical farm unit.

Establishing of conservation practices has been slow, but it is gradually increasing.

- b. The County ASC Committee on several occasions has asked for increased cost funds for cost-sharing to meet the special needs of the county. To date they have received a deaf ear from the State ASC Committee. The maximum allowed per farm for cost-sharing in Cumberland is \$150. In 1958 it was \$300. Six counties border Cumberland; the maximum in one county is \$400 per farm, all other counties are \$500 or greater per farm. 241 farmers participated in ACP in Cumberland in 1959. The low cost-sharing rates have caused the farmers to use fertilizer, lime, and seeding practices instead of permanent type practices. Cancellation of permanent type practices has resulted because of low cost-sharing rate payments.
- c. During the 1958-59 planting season the following seedlings were planted: Loblolly pine - 241,900, White pine - 1,000, Red Cedar - 4,000.
- d. Have looked into two watersheds and are now beginning to promote a third. One watershed was declared unsatisfactory by S.C.S. personnel; one has been held up because the proposed dam site would be on farmers' land who object to such structures being there. The third watershed is just in its beginning.

Youth Programs

- a. At the request of the Rural Development Committee, the following youth organizations were given representation on the county Rural Development Committee and the various subcommittees: President of Student Government, President of F.F.A., President of F.H.A., President of County 4-H Honor Club.

Recreation

As a result of the efforts of the County Rural Development Recreation Committee cooperating with the school P.T.A., money was raised to buy equipment and uniforms to start Cumberland High School's first football team. A part of this money was used to supplement the salary of the new coach. Money was also raised to construct and equip a new shower building for the team.

At the present time these committees are working toward money to light the athletic field at Cumberland Court House. Approximately \$3,000 has been pledged to this project so far.

Health

Through a concentrated effort of all people and organizations in the county, the Cumberland High School lunchroom has been enlarged and completely modernized.

The County Rural Development Committee cooperated with other committees in securing a physician for the county. His office is located at Cumberland Court House. Cumberland County has been without the services of a physician for several years.

The Health Committee sponsored the Polio Vaccine Clinic with the cooperation of the Health Department and Drs. Margaret and William Pennington of Buckingham. This program was quite successful.

The Health Committee cooperated with the American Legion in establishing a walking blood bank for Cumberland County.

The committee is working to establish a public dump in each magisterial district in the county. Cumberland village has a periodic trash collection which has been in effect for two years.

Industry and other Enterprise Development

The egg grading plant located in Farnville is the only new industry that has moved into the area in the past year that would influence the labor problem in the county. While this was not brought in as a result of the Rural Development Program, the various committees on the Rural Development Program cooperated in every way possible to see that this plant was located in this area.

The Industrial Committee has published and distributed large and small brochures which are available to potential industry.

One of our oldest and largest lakes in the county has recently

been developed into a summer resort. Many cottages have been constructed on this property to date, also a grill is now being operated and plans are being made for a super market. The continuing development of this area will improve the economy of the county.

Program Information

A representative of the local newspaper, the Farmville Herald, is a member of the Publicity Committee of the Rural Development Program, which has given us an opportunity to have extra coverage by our local newspaper.

The county and home agents promote the program on their regularly scheduled broadcasts.

Movies, slide films and radio tapes would be most helpful in promoting the Rural Development Program in the county.

Comments by Members of the Rural Development Committee

"I feel that the Rural Development Program is a good program, but it has to move slowly. If the committees can carry out only a part of their objectives, the program will be a success;"
- by R. H. Blanton, Clerk of the Court and Secretary of the Rural Development Committee.

"The surveys gave us such needed information about ourselves and potentialities which give us a foundation on which to build. In time, visible results will be seen from these studies. I feel that the Rural Development Program has helped to make us appreciate the things that we have and to appreciate our heritage"
- by Mrs. Edith Harrison, Chairman of the County Home Demonstration Club Committee and member of the Rural Development Committee.

Major Trend

The trend in Cumberland County is toward larger and fewer farms. The small farmer is selling his few acres to a larger farmer, retaining his house and securing a job in industry in nearby towns, however, continuing to live in the county.

Other farmers are supplementing their income by off-farm work, or the farm wife is seeking employment outside the home.

The Rural Development Program can make a significant contribution to the economic adjustment of the county, however, the program, of necessity, must move slowly as it involves changes in attitudes and practices of long standing. It is becoming rooted in the county.

XIX. EVALUATION OF YEAR'S WORK

It is very difficult to evaluate the year's work due to the many things the agents are required to do in carrying out the county program and meeting the requests of the farmers and other groups. Some of the outstanding accomplishments for 1959 were:

1. It is felt that one of the most important things accomplished in 1959 has been the establishing of special committees in the Rural Development Program to take care of the various problems recognized by the overall county Rural Development Committee. These committees have set up some very good objectives. If they carry through on these objectives we feel a lot of the county problems can be solved.
2. There has been a large increase in the number and quality of the dairy and beef cattle in the county.
3. The agronomy work in the county has improved greatly in 1959. The most important progress has been in the improvement in our pastures, the increase in soil samples taken, increased use of adapted certified seed, and the number of farmers following fertilizer and management recommendations.
4. The special interest committees have continued to do good work in 1959 and have been such help to the agents in planning and carrying out their work.
5. The 4-H Club members of the county have continued to make outstanding accomplishments. The work of the county 4-H Honor Club has been especially outstanding in 1959.

EXTENSION SPECIALISTS WHO ASSISTED AGENTS IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY IN 1959

Agricultural Economics

Harry M. Love
D. U. Livermore
K. E. Loope
W. J. Nuckolls, Jr.
Albert J. Ortega, Jr.

Agricultural Engineering

G. D. Kite
Easley S. Smith

Agronomy

G. R. Mathews
John F. Shoulders

Animal Husbandry

John H. Carter, Jr.
Henry H. Dickenson, Jr.
Rois M. Godsey

Dept. of Dairy Science

V. L. Baldwin
William S. Griffith

Dept. of Entomology

Arthur P. Morris
J. O. Rowell

Forestry

A. B. Lyon
W. A. McElfresh

Horticulture

L. B. Wilkins

Plant Pathology & Physiology

A.W. Kates
Robert Pristou

Poultry Husbandry

Denver D. Bragg
Arthur T. Ringrose
R. Lewis Wesley

Veterinary Science

S. L. Kalison