

VIRGINIA

AMELIA COUNTY

HEARD COUNTY AGENT

1927

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL
COLLEGE AND POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON

EXTENSION SERVICE

Amelia Co.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

G.E. Oliver, Local Agent, Cross, Va.

From December 1st, 1926

To November 30th, 1927.

NEGRO EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY AGENT WORK

Approved
Dec. 16, 1927

John L. Chantry, Dist. Agent

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COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD.

The County Advisory Board is composed of representatives from the community clubs. The Board is properly officered and is called to meet by the County Agent.

The function of the Board is to put on a County Program of Work and to assist the communities in their Plan of Work.

The following Plan of Work for the County was put on for 1927:

A farmers Tour to take place during the month of June; Date to be set by Agent.

A County Farmers' Conference to be held at Cedar Hill church, July 28th & County Fair at Blackstone, Va. Oct. 28th, 1927.

The Board elected one delegate to the Hampton Farmers' Conference and two delegates to the State Advisory Board meeting at Surry C.H. Va.

FARMERS TOUR

Visited the following farms: Creed Greenhill, Blackstone, Va. is handling truck instead of tobacco and from June 1st to June 16th had sold \$75. worth of truck.

Joe Bell, Blackstone, 22 had a fine garden and always makes enough feed and feed to last the entire year and some to sell.

Visited the farm of Mr. J. B. Morgan, member of the Board of Supervisors and one of the best farmers in South Side, Va. We got lots of information and inspiration from this farm. Mr. Morgan made it very pleasant for the farmers and took pleasure in answering any questions asked.

George Walker has a nice home, fine garden, fine poultry and good crops out buildings in good shape and white washed.

Joe Peterson had 20 acres in corn, 9 acres in wheat, 20 head of hogs & cows (Holstein) and a crib with about 300 bus. of corn.

Frank P. Brown had 3 acres to Red Top, 4 acres to Spelling clover and had remodelled his home.

There were 22 men and 15 women in the Tour and the Dist Agent, J. L. Charity. The Tour took place on the 17th of June.

COUNTYFARMERS' CONFERENCE

The County Farmers Conference was held at Cedar Hill Church, July 28th, 1927. After devotionals, we heard reports from delegates to the Hampton Farmers' Conference and the State Advisory Board meeting held at Surry C.H. Va. We then went into the discussion of hogs, led by Dr. Patterson of the Va. State College, Petersburg, Va.

Soil Improvement was led by Mr. G. J. Hartman, Farm Manager of the State College, Petersburg, Va. and a round table discussion by the farmers. Poultry was handled very successfully by Local Agent D. H. Smith of Lunenburg County and year round gardens by Mr. Creed Greenhill of Blackstone, Va.

Very encouraging remarks were made by Rev. R. W. Ashburn of Blackstone, on the results of demonstration as seen by him in the county for the past 18 years.

Hampton Farmers Conference

The 1st Vice president of the County Advisory was the delegate to the Hampton Farmers' Conference. His expenses were paid by the Board. At the County Farmers' Conference he made his report of his trip and the conference activities in imparting valuable instruction on the building up of poor soil and the growing of home supplies.

State Short Course. (Junior Herb)

Six club boys and one club girl attended the State Short Course at Hampton Inst. on August 2-4.
In the judging of seed corn, Leon L. Oliver and Theodore Faulken, the team from Nettozay County won the Silver Cup, put up by the Agents' Body and also the Silver Cup put up by T. E. Weed & Sons of Richmond, Va. It took these boys three years to win the Agents' cup. They attended the Short Course for the past three years and each year, they tried for the cup and at last won.

Farm CropsCorn

There were 35 demonstrations in corn for home supply, with an average increase of yield of 12 bus. per acre.
The seed used was Beane County, Virginia white Dent and Yellow Dent. Good seed, green manure and proper tillage were stressed, with good results.
All of these 35 demonstrators made enough to last the entire year and some to sell. The following demonstrators have sold over 50 bus. of corn: J. A. Peterson, Joe Bell, J. E. Wilson, Tom Edmonds and H. P. Johnson.

Wheat

Seventeen demonstrations in wheat were conducted, some using Little Red, Fultzmaster, Lemps' Prolific and V. P. I. with an increase yield of 6 bus. per acre.
Keeson Bros, Kellyville, #1 made an average yield of 30 bus. per acre on 6 acres; threshed 180 bus. from 6 acres.
G. A. Stokes, Earls, Va. averaged 24 bus per acre, J. A. Peterson, Blackstone, #2 averaged 19 bus. and H. P. Johnson, Craws, #2, averaged 23 bus. per acre. Good seed, treated for smut, good seed bed and plenty of fertilizers brought about these good results.

Forage Crops

There were 10 demonstrations in Clover, 11 in Soybeans, 14 in Cowpeas. All of these crops were grown for home supply.
All demonstrators have made enough hay to last the year round and with some to sell.
This is the first year in the past 19 years that the farmers have not had to buy any hay.

SOIL IMPROVEMENT.Community Clubs:

The Bertha Mineral Lime Co. of Auckville, Va. offered me a carload of lime if the farmers would pay the freight. Spainville and Jerusalem clubs accepted the offer, and on the 24 of February the car of 41 tons of lime ~~was~~ distributed.

Some of the results: Moses Bess, Wellville, #1 had 4 acres in crimson clover. He cut this clover in May. Broke 2 acres for alfalfa, disced well put 3 tons of this lime on these 2 acres, dragged in well, and every time it rained, he dragged these 2 acres again and really had a good seedbed. I ordered inoculating material for him and the last week in August he seeded, and now he has a perfect stand. He has never grown alfalfa before.

J.E. Wilson, Wellville, #1, had been trying to grow alfalfa for the past 2 years, but could not get a stand. He took 4 tons of lime, used 2 tons on 2 acres and has a fine stand.

Langston Wilson, Wellville #1, took 1 ton of lime, and just as he hauled it home, he broadcasted it on his acre of crimson clover, with a spike tooth harrow the next day and dragged the clover over. Working in the lime, disced this clover in, got a good seedbed, inoculated his seed and has a perfect stand of alfalfa on his acre.

Jennings and Mt. Zion clubs accepted the offer for the second car of lime that this company offered me.

This car was shipped to Grewe, Va. in March. Land was broken, lime was applied and dragged in during the spring. He knew that these communities needed hay, so we get busy and get them to seed their limed lands to soybeans. We bought cooperatively 107 bus. of Mammoth Yellow beans and they were planted in rows about 2 1/2 feet apart, so they could cultivate them. Some cultivated once and some cultivated twice. Results: Here hay has been raised in these communities than ever before, and no farmer has had to buy any, and will not have to buy any more hay as I have orders on hand now for soybean seed for next spring.

R.H. Fowlkes, Grewe, #2, says, "I have always had to buy hay by Dec. 25- but since you have put us on to the growing of soybeans, my hay bill has been saved, for I have 6 stacks of soybean hay standing in my field, with at least 2 tons to the stack! Louis Watson, Grewe #3, said "I was from home when my wife got you to get 2 bus. of beans ~~through~~ ~~year~~, and I am sorry she didn't get 6 bus. still I have made more hay than I have ever made before! This man inoculated one bus. and the other bus. he did not. And it was a demonstration that demonstrates.

Campaign for Hay

In the campaign for hay we used soybeans and cowpeas with the result that nearly every farmer was reached, more hay was made than ever before, and no farmer will have to buy hay for the next 12 months. Really we have solved the hay bill problem by the growing of soybeans and cowpeas.

All of the land that was in cowpeas and soybeans will be put in wheat or some small grain during the fall to act as a cover crop.

Poultry

Built 2 open front poultry houses, placed 3 purebred cockerels, and with Local Agent R.F. Jones, culled entire flock of birds for Mrs. G.W. Stokes and put leg bands on good birds. With Mr. Gamack of Hampton Inst. visited the poultry center of Mrs. Minnie Eves, Wellville, #1. and culled her entire flock. Mr. Gamack says: "This is a flock of good layers, and they have a variety of feed. I selected and banded her 10 best hens, and 20 best pullets for breeders. All others are to be sold. This is a splendid center as the flock gets good care."

Hogs

Mr. Moses Eves, Wellville, #1, had 4 sows bred to a purebred Poland China bear, and has 20 sows for sale. Mr. Jas. A. Peterson, Blackstone, #2, has 15 killers, 5 sows and a bear. He uses his bear for his neighbors. (Berkshires) Mr. Lee Eves, Burkeville, #1, keeps a purebred Essex bear that he uses for the community. You can find good hogs all over the county.

Family Cows.

More attention is being given to the family cow in her care and feed, and the result is that the farmer is getting more milk and butter. The cow is being better housed and fed. Instead of just chucks and straw, she is getting some soybean and cowpea hay.

The following are taking good care of their cows:
 J.H. Wilson, Wellville, #1, G.W. Stokes, Earls, Va., H.P. Johnson, Grewe #2, R.H. Fowlkes, Grewe, #2, and Jas. A. Peterson, Blackstone, #2.

JUNIOR WORK-

30 club boys raised 995 bus of corn, Value \$200. Cost of production \$264.80, Profit \$835.20. Average profit for each boy, \$17.50

3 boys raised 3 tons of soybean hay, Value \$60. Cost of production \$15. Profit \$45. Average profit for each boy, \$15.

3 boys raised 60 bus. of potatoes, Value \$75. Cost of production \$15. Profit \$60. Average profit for each boy \$20.

Pigs

3 boys raised 3 pigs, Value \$54. Cost to raise \$36. Profit \$18. Average profit for each boy \$6.

Poultry

10, first year, boys and girls raised 511 chicks to maturity, Value \$205.70; Cost to raise \$147.25; Profit \$58.45; Profit for each boy and girl \$7.81.

6, second year girls, raised 222 chickens, sold 125, sold 94 dozen eggs. Value of chicks sold, on hand, and eggs sold \$141.40; Cost of production \$92. Profit \$49.40. Average profit to each girl \$5.23.

Net Profit on Junior Work-

Total net profit on corn-----	\$835.20
" " " " soybean hay-----	\$ 45.00
" " " " Potatoes-----	\$ 60.00
" " " " Pigs-----	\$ 18.00
" " " " Poultry-----	\$197.85
Grand total	<u>\$1155.25</u>

G. E. Oliver,
Local Agent.