

IV. GENERAL APPRAISAL OF PAST YEAR

Notable progress has been attained in several areas of the total County Extension Program. However, ultimate goals in these same areas have not been reached. Continued efforts will have to be exerted and cooperation of the people sought. Through the coordination and informing of all groups and activities committees on the total county program, it is felt the program has been strengthened. This is accomplished by inviting members from Home Demonstration Clubs, 4-H and Community Club leaders to leader training meetings. This presents leaders with information other than special interests.

Acceptance of responsibilities by leaders in conducting meetings and other forms of assistance has been good. Strongest leadership has been shown with the adults that serve as 4-H leaders. By Agents working with these leaders prior to meetings the leaders will accept responsibility for conducting meetings. This provides an opportunity for agents to work in other phases of Extension and actually participate in meetings two or three times during the year.

Community Improvement Club organization for the past year has been weak. Three clubs participated during 1964, but only one club will remain organized for the year 1965. There appears at this time, no possibility to renew interest and have more clubs in the future.

Program projection committees and special interest meetings continue to attract more new people to Extension than any other teaching aids.

those consigning animals to the sale and reject any of inferior quality. No animals were sold that graded below a Good Plus. The first sale was held in January 1963 with twelve animals averaging \$343 or \$23.51 per month of age.

The sale held the past year saw an increase in the number to sixteen, lower cattle prices were reflected with an average of \$265 or \$16.50 per month of age.

Prospects for a good sale in 1965 looks encouraging. Their successful operation is a good indication such an activity can serve the interests of both seller and buyer. The group will continue to emphasize quality improvement as it becomes a full fledged marketing organization. Through their efforts local cattlemen hope to build a reputation for cattle in the area, as well as to improve quality.

III. SUCCESS STORY

"Where can I buy a good, fast growing beef bull?" "There is no money in producing bulls." These comments were made at a County Extension Livestock Committee meeting in 1963. Catching these comments the group immediately saw an educational device to encourage beef improvement.

It was felt that a demonstrational sale would show the value or improved breeding, management and marketing practices.

The first step was to survey and study the situation. A definite need was established and the survey indicated that approximately twenty bulls would be available for a sale the following year. Now, the demand arose for an agency to handle the special sale. The Halifax Livestock Producers Association, formed to market feeder calves, saw the need of the bull sale and offered their support and facilities.

A sale committee was developed from the livestock committee with representatives of the major breeds equally represented.

A set of rules and regulations were developed to guide the group. Two firsts in the area were to be tried: (1) joint sale of Hereford and Angus and (2) animals to be graded by the Virginia Department of Agriculture grading service.

Producers received training on how to select breeding animals, feeding and management. Teams were selected to visit the farms of

in presenting a great deal of the information. It has been amazing at the amount of information 4-H club members have received from these meetings. The Agents ask questions each month on the information previously given and club members always know the answers.

III. SUCCESS STORY

CIVIL DEFENSE

The Home Demonstration Clubs spent two months in 1964 on Civil Defense and the 4-H clubs selected it as their in-school project for the year. The Home Agent also presented a program for the Clover Woman's Club on Civil Defense. A set of slides sent us by Mr. L. B. Wilkins, Rural Civil Defense Representative, has been used very effectively in the county in presenting programs. During the month of March Mr. Wilkins trained the Home Demonstration Club leaders for the April demonstration on "Civil Defense - Home Shielding" and the May demonstration on "Civil Defense - Food Requirements." Civil Defense information was used in the bulletin racks from time to time throughout the year.

The Crystal Hill Home Demonstration Club used Civil Defense as the subject for a booth at the Halifax County Fair. The booth contained a miniature fall-out shelter completely stocked with food and necessary supplies. This was an excellent booth and created a great deal of interest.

The 4-H in-school clubs selected Civil Defense for their project in 1964-65 school year. Such subjects as "4-H in Nuclear Age," "Why is Fallout Dangerous," "Supply of Food and Water for Emergencies and Shelters," "Radioactive Fallout on the Farm," "Family Preparedness - Medical Self Help" and 4-H in Rural Civil Defense have been and will be studied. Club members have shown a great deal of interest in the programs. The Agents working with 4-H have used slides

All leaders and 4-H members were invited.

Adult leaders attended a training session on "Knowing Your Sewing Machine" which was taught by the Extension Agents. A local merchant provided space and sewing machines for this training.

Adult 4-H leaders were invited to Home Demonstration leader training in special interest areas.

RURAL LIFE SUNDAY - HALIFAX COUNTY

The community 4-H clubs observed and participated in their own Rural Life Program at their local churches. Some of the members took part in the program while others prepared flower arrangements and served as ushers. The congregation is always quite pleased with the active role that our 4-H club members take in their local church. The Extension Agents and local adult leaders feel that 4-H club Sunday is a very integral in our training program.

Short Course - Halifax County

Twenty-three members attended State Short Course from Halifax County during 1964. Three members were taken into the All-Star Chapter, one state demonstration winner in Entomology, one state achievement winner in field crops and one member placing highest individual in state in dairy judging. Others participated in demonstration and judging contest.

believes that club members conducting forestry projects will do a better job in their project work, now that they have seen what results are possible when approved forestry practices are utilized.

PROJECT TRAINING - HALIFAX COUNTY

Club members were provided with literature and instructions by adult leaders and Extension Agents to enable them to successfully complete project requirements. Much project training was done on the individual club level with the Agents supplying information and literature to the adult leaders. Then in turn, leaders and Agents trained individual club members in all phases.

Project training on the county level was very good this year. In January, a county wide meeting was held to train members on demonstration techniques. Adult leaders, junior leaders and Extension Agents provided information for approximately 150 members and leaders who attended.

A project training meeting on Bread was held on a county wide basis with approximately 50 members attending. The training and information was given by a professional home economist in our county and was assisted by the Extension Agent.

A training meeting was held by the Extension Agent to provide training for those club members who were to participate in the county dress revue. Adult leaders assisted with this meeting.

An all day meeting was held for project instruction in Electricity and was conducted by representatives from the local power suppliers.

and third place clubs on the point system. A Halifax County member also won Grand Champion in the Livestock show. At the Halifax fair, greater participation was seen than in many years. For the first time, the clubs competed in the point system and 4-H booths. Six out of the eleven clubs had fair booths on some educational phase of 4-H work.

Forestry Tour - Halifax County

A Father-Son 4-H forestry tour was held on March 28 at the home of Wayne Palmer, national 4-H forestry winner in 1963 and fourth alternate on the national forestry scholarship in 1964. The group, which consisted of twenty-six club members, fathers, and club leaders toured Wayne's forestry projects. William Hubble, District Forester, explained to the group how Wayne had followed approved forestry practices at each of the project areas visited. All were quite impressed over the projects, especially his tree planting project, where his pine seedlings were shoulder high after only two growing seasons. Demonstrations were given on how to plant a pine seedling correctly, affects on roots caused by improper planting and chemical treatments to control undesirable hardwood trees. All present participated in a forestry judging contest Mr. Hubble had set up. The contest consisted of fifteen numbered trees which had to be judged as whether they should be cut or left for saw timber. "Why" had to be given for trees that the contestant thought should be cut. Cash prizes were awarded for the first three placings in the contest. The Extension Agent

4-H AND OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMSAdditional Field of WorkDistrict 4-H Camp - Halifax County

Camp week for Halifax County was July 20 - 25 during which time one hundred and two four-H club members from Halifax County attended camp at Holiday Lake. Seven junior leaders accompanied the group from the county and were largely responsible for the leadership of the group for the entire week. They contributed greatly to the success of the camp.

All the campers joined in on educational classes which were conducted by Extension staff members from Blacksburg. After the classes had adjourned, the campers participated in the games, dances, swimming and religious activities.

Exhibiting - Halifax County

Training meetings to teach club members how to plan and prepare neat and attractive exhibits were held at the club level. Some of the clubs had special meetings on the subject while others combined it in their regular meetings. The adult leaders took charge of presenting the material on the club level. The Extension Agents judged club fairs and discussed with the members how their exhibits could be improved. During fair week the Agents assisted the members with the final preparation of their exhibits.

The efforts of the adult leaders and the Extension Agents were widened when the final placings were made at the fairs. In the five county fair at Danville, Halifax has the first, second,

4-H AND OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMSAdditional Field of WorkAll-Stars - Halifax County

The All-Star Chapter in the county elected as its big chief for 1964 Mrs. Barbara Carter. The Chapter has an average of twenty active members and has had four meetings throughout the past year. Three new members were taken into the Chapter this year.

An afternoon social and business meeting was held during the Christmas holidays. Candidates for 1965 were elected at this meeting.

Awards and Recognition Banquet - Halifax County

The annual Awards and Recognition Banquet sponsored by the Bank of Halifax, was held for the club members winning a county medal. The 1964 banquet was held on November 20 at the Halifax County High School. Approximately 235 club members, parents and guests attended. The senior club members conducted the banquet and presented the entertainment for the program. Three of the participants of the county Share-the-Fun contest were responsible for entertainment. The local leaders and Extension Agents presented medals to ninety four club members.

No guest speaker was invited because we felt that entertainment by the members themselves would be more appropriate.

Junior Leaders are being used more on the club and county basis in assisting adult leaders and training of younger club members. Many older club members get recognition through assisting adult leaders who do not get recognition through competition.

4-H PROGRAM

Halifax County's 4-H Club program is composed of eighteen organized clubs in the elementary schools and eleven as Community Clubs. The school clubs are under the leadership of the Extension Agents and community clubs have 42 adult leaders.

One county-wide program is planned for the school clubs by a yearbook committee composed of 4-H members and agents. A yearbook is then compiled containing the coming years program along with other information concerning 4-H. Each school club member in the county is given a yearbook for his own use throughout the year. The club meeting is divided up into three parts, the business meeting conducted by the club members, the program and project training. Emphasis was given at each meeting to help the individual club member in obtaining information and project training to satisfactorily complete his or her project.

The adult leaders are responsible for the community 4-H clubs. The Agents train leaders before the club meetings and only attend the meeting when asked to take part on the program or the agent feels a need to attend. The leaders are invited to all training meetings of special interest in the county on the adult and club level.

Parents have played a greater part in the 4-H activities during the past year. Leaders and agents have included more parents in the participation and observance of club and county activities in order to further stimulate and promote 4-H in the county.

EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICSAdditional Field of WorkConsumer Education - Halifax County

Striving to be a wise consumer has been of interest to many of the homemakers during the year. Again this was stressed in most of the meetings held during the year with both the adult and youth.

The Dan River Homemakers, which is an Extension sponsored group of young homemakers, approached all demonstrations in 1964 from a consumers standpoint. One tour was held by this group with emphasis on "What to Look for in Buying Furniture."

EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICSAdditional Field of WorkCivil Defense - Halifax County

The above subject was planned for in the 1964 program as an additional field but it turned out to be a project of major emphasis and is written up in this report as one of the success stories.

EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICSAdditional Field of WorkHome Grounds Beautification - Halifax County

With many new homes being built and old ones remodeled, the Home Grounds Beautification Program projection group (which represented the entire county) felt that the committee needed to plan and carry out a program to help these people beautify their home grounds.

The objectives were to help create a desire for attractive home grounds, to give these people an opportunity to study and know shrubbery, landscaping, lawn seeding and care.

The methods used were a tour to a local nursery to study shrubbery, home visits, talks before Community Clubs, Home Demonstration Clubs, 4-H Clubs and other groups in the county.

The committee planned and carried out a tour to Lewis' Nursery to give those who were interested, an opportunity to study shrubbery and discuss proper location, likes and dislikes of shrubbery as to exposure and so forth. Talks were given on correct planting, care and pruning. Slides were used in meetings during the year to show shrubs suitable to use in this area, grading and landscape planning. The Agents assisted approximately thirty-five families during the year with landscape plans.

EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICSAdditional Field of WorkHome Management - Halifax County

Home Management is involved in every task of the homemaker. It cannot be separated from any of the demonstrations set up by the clubs in 1964.

The objectives were to assist homemakers in analyzing their time, energy and money management needs.

Time and energy was emphasized in connection with each of the monthly demonstrations and with the special interest classes.

The family record book was made available to all families in the county through the bulletin racks and the agents carried a supply during January and February for those who desired them. Approximately 125 books were asked for. The Agent did not take names of those getting books but feels that it is desirable to obtain names and check at end of year to see how many have carried through on their use.

most interesting. The chairman usually ends her discussion with the use of these pictures in the home. Leaders and 4-H members worked with the "Your Furnishings" and "Room Improvement" projects, with many of the girls making an exhibit at the County Fair.

EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICSHouse Furnishings - Halifax County

Homemakers are always interested in making their homes more livable and attractive for family living. Homemakers wanted information on making the best use of what they have and coordinating their furnishings for a more attractive home. The objectives were to provide homemakers with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and ideas on making the best use of what they have, to teach the basic principles of house furnishings and to help create a desire for and pride in making the home a pleasant, comfortable and convenient place in which to live. Methods used were information racks, bride's kits, radio talks, news articles, special interest meetings and demonstrations by Agents and leaders.

The Dan River Homemakers Club that is composed of 28 members who are under 35 years of age had one of the local furniture stores to conduct a class for them one night. They toured the store and he explained how furniture is made, what to look for in buying and the different finishes and their care.

The month of January in the Home Demonstration Clubs was spent on "What To Look For in Buying Sheets, Pillow Cases and Blankets." This proved to be a most worthwhile demonstration and many of the homemakers felt better prepared to make decisions on linens in the "white sale" in February.

The Federation Program of Work is "Art in Daily Living" with special emphasis on artists and famous paintings. This has been

information was made available to the public.

In June, the demonstration was "Freezing Cooked Foods." This subject was approached from a management angle to help homemakers decide if they were using their freezers to a maximum.

In August, September and October, the demonstrations were "Food Standards - What They Mean To Me," "What To Look For on Labels," and "Food Additives." These demonstrations were approached from a management angle of time, energy and money.

Two special interest meetings were arranged by the Foods and Nutrition Committee with 4-H leaders, Home Demonstration members, young homemakers and other adults attending. Management of time and energy was again stressed in food preparation.

Leaders and 4-H members worked in the Foods and Nutrition projects and had many interesting and tasty exhibits at the Halifax County Fair to show what they had learned.

EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICSFoods and Nutrition - Halifax County

Information gathered by the Foods and Nutrition Committee, survey results and information secured from Home Demonstration Clubs seemed to indicate a lack of knowledge on the part of many homemakers as to what constitutes an adequate diet. There seemed to be a need for developing food preparation and preservation skills. What is involved in being a wise consumer was another problem area for special emphasis during the year. The objectives were to help homemakers feel the responsibility of feeding their families adequately and to prepare food in a way to conserve maximum food value. To make educational material available and help homemakers to save time and energy in shopping as well as preparation was another objective. Methods used were demonstrations by Agents, leaders and Home Economists of a public utility, bulletin racks, bride's packet, radio talks, news articles, special interest meetings and program projection committee. Information was presented to special interest groups, Home Demonstration Clubs, 4-H Clubs and Community Improvement Clubs. The months of May, June, August, September and October were devoted to foods work in the Home Demonstration Clubs. In May the clubs had a discussion on Food Requirements for Civil Defense Needs. This included quantity and type of foods to be stocked in a fallout shelter. As a result of this discussion, one of the clubs had a fair booth on the subject. They constructed a miniature shelter and stocked it. A great deal of interest was shown in this booth by the public. Free

the garment on each other. This helped the homemaker understand some of her basic fitting problems and how to correct them.

The Assistant Home Agent conducted a 4-H Leader Training Meeting on "Know Your Sewing Machine." During the summer months, the leaders worked with the members of their clubs. A tour to a local store to study fit, construction and style of ready-made garments was not conducted as planned.

Leaders and 4-H members participated in the clothing projects. The girls exhibited some excellent garments they had made at the County Fair.

EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICSClothing - Halifax County

Homemakers would construct more of their own clothing if they could develop knowledge and skills in clothing construction. Those homemakers who buy their clothing ready made needed help in developing skills and knowledge in what to look for in buying ready made garments.

The objectives were to help homemakers develop the necessary skills to select garments that fit well, becoming in style and color and to help homemakers improve sewing skills.

Methods used were demonstrations by agents and leaders, bulletin racks in laundermats and beauty parlor, bride's packet, news articles, radio talks, special interest meetings and program projection committee. Information was presented to Home Demonstration Clubs, 4-H Clubs, special interest groups and Community Improvement Clubs. The month of February in the Home Demonstration Clubs was devoted to "Points to Consider in Selecting Garments that Fit Well," and in March the demonstration was "Selecting Clothing with Becoming Style and Color to Suit the Individual."

Two special interest classes in tailoring were held to help homemakers develop the skills necessary to construct a good looking home made garment.

One special interest class was held in which the homemakers made a basic muslin dress. The group divided into two's and fitted

and marketing of lambs. Low sheep numbers in the area necessitates the pooling of lambs in numbers sufficient to attract buying power. It is imperative that the producers work together in the marketing of their sheep. They were assisted with the planning and development of three cooperative lamb sales.

MARKETING AND UTILIZATION OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTSAdditional Areas of WorkDemonstrational Commercial Bull Sale

Developed through the County Livestock Committee and the Halifax Livestock Producers Association to aid producers in securing quality breeding stock to improve their herds. It also served as a ready outlet for the registered breeder to market his animals. Growers were guided in the selection of quality, fast growing breeding stock. Producers found it necessary to organize the machinery to operate the event.

Producers, who were mainly feeder calf producers, requested the services of the Virginia Department of Agriculture to officially grade the animals. The grading of bulls was a first for the area. No bull grading below Good Plus was allowed to be sold.

Sixteen Angus and Hereford bulls were sold at an average price of two hundred sixty-eight dollars.

Cooperative Wool Marketing

Sheep producers of a seven-county area work together to have sufficient volume to attract buyers of their wool. They are advised and assisted by Extension personnel to work together cooperatively. This year over fourteen thousand pounds of wool was marketed.

Cooperative Lamb Marketing

Growers were given latest information on the preparation

MARKETING AND UTILIZATION OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTSLivestock - Feeder Calf Marketing - Halifax County

Major emphasis was given feeder calf marketing as a result of low numbers marketed through the local cooperative sale.

The objective was for beef producers to produce better grading calves, properly prepare calves for market and market cooperatively for increased returns to management.

A joint committee of Directors of the Halifax Livestock Producers Association, County Livestock Committee and Extension Agents met and objectively discussed the situation and formulated plans toward reaching the objective.

Producers were familiarized with the proper preparation of calves for market and the health requirements for inter-state shipment. This was accomplished through the use of circular letters, press, radio and personal contacts by members of the association, livestock committee and Extension Agents.

A survey of cattle to be marketed was made and results made available to the joint committee.

Three hundred fifty-four calves were marketed through the local cooperative sale with twenty-five percent grading fancy and choice. In working and planning together, local producers became more familiar with their problem and have developed a plan to help themselves solve their marketing problems.

when they would be offered for sale.

The county committee cooperated with adjoining counties and with the assistance of state Extension Specialists, Department of Agriculture and local industry an area swine school was conducted. Budgets on the estimated costs and returns expected from feeder pig production was presented by the Extension Economist. Using this information and farm records the enterprise was budgeted on individual farms.

A tour of farrowing facilities in the county was conducted. Farrowing facilities have been completed or presently under construction to handle approximately one hundred fifty sows. Two new swine layouts were developed.

Through individual contacts, assistance was given in selection of breeding stock, formulating economical rations, and recordkeeping. A feeder pig management calendar was developed and distributed to new producers.

The production of feeder pigs is on the increase, the most visible results was the increase in quality. Over ninety-eight percent of the pigs marketed in the feeder pig sales graded number one and two. It will take some time before results can be evaluated and the emphasized program should continue from year to year to be successful.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTAnimal Husbandry - Feeder Pig Production For Supplemental Income -Halifax County

Feeder pig production offers an excellent opportunity to supplement income on the average tobacco farm. Additional tobacco acreage reductions necessitate the addition of farm enterprises if the farm is to provide an adequate income for the farm family. Presently swine numbers are considerably lower resulting from extended drought and low market hog prices.

The objective of this program was for farmers to recognize the potential of feeder pig production and to become established in feeder pig production.

This program was developed and guided by the County Livestock Committee. A study was developed to explore alternative methods of marketing feeder pigs. Contract selling and organized cooperative sales were studied. It was determined that an organized feeder pig sale offered the most opportunities. This was presented to the County Board of Agriculture and with their support, attempts were made to hold an area sale in Halifax. After it was determined that a sufficient number to attract volume buying could not be reached, the group then joined forces with a neighboring sale unit and marketed their pigs through the organized sale. The marketing committee toured sale facilities and observed sales in North Carolina and Virginia.

A survey was conducted to determine farms having feeder pigs and

hardwoods.

A tour of good forest management practices including, killing undesirable species, thinning and seedling planting was held in cooperation with a local sponsor and 4-H members. The tour was called 4-H members and parents forestry practices meeting to interest as many people as possible.

Electronic Recordkeeping and Analysis

Six farmers participated in the electronic recordkeeping program. Analysis of the farm accounts is most important. One farmer as a result of the analysis was able to increase net income \$7,827 in 1963 by renting additional land and making use of equipment machinery now on the farm and through reductions in the cost of his feed program. Individual farmers were assisted with budgeting of specific crops.

One small flue tobacco farm was linear programmed and will show an increase of over \$5,000 net income when adopted. This farm is typical of the small tobacco farms now adjusting to acreage reductions.

educational effort in this area. These individuals also indicated their desire to attend other schools in area of farm management especially on flue-cured tobacco.

Supplemental Enterprises

Halifax County is highly dependent upon the success of tobacco for its agricultural economy. Many small farms cannot maintain the proper standard of living from their small incomes. Therefore, supplemental enterprises are continuously sought.

Emphasis was placed on the following enterprises as sources of supplemental income: soybeans; feeder pigs; forestry; small fruit and vegetable production. Considerable success has been noted on several farms producing cantaloupes. To assist these producers, a meeting was held on production, marketing and new developments in cantaloupes. Interest of producers in new developments centered on the use of black plastic mulch. Three demonstrations were arranged and conducted on growing cantaloupes with this material. Favorable results were obtained from the standpoint of earlier and high quality melons. These demonstrations also included variety trials. Through the observation and results of these variety plantings growers had the opportunity to select varieties that are best adopted to the area.

Forestry

A large percentage of the total land area of Halifax County is in woodland. Much of this acreage is in low producing and undesirable

Forage and Grain Handling

A one-day school for dairy and livestock producers was held to inform the producers on economical production and feeding.

Almost ideal weather conditions attributed to the production of a large supply of forage in the county. Quality is improving as indicated by the results of the forage analysis program. Production costs continue high on many farms because of the practice of using crops that are potentially low yielding. Another factor in high production costs is the practice of failing to properly fertilize potentially high yielding crops.

Large acreages of sudan-sorghum hybrid crosses were seeded in the county. Many farmers were disappointed in the results experienced with these crops. The disadvantages and advantages of the sorghum grasses were fully explained to the producers before planting. Major objection voiced by producers concerned the curing of this crop. The poorest quality forage produced this year was on farms that were highly dependent on the sorghum grasses.

As a result of the experience in 1964 more farmers will be seeking information from the Extension Service on recommended forage crops.

Farm Management School

Fourteen county farmers completed a three-day school in farm management principles and decision making.

A survey of those in attendance indicated a need for more

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTAdditional Areas of WorkAlfalfa Production

Low alfalfa yields and unsuccessful insect control contributed to further reduction in total acres of alfalfa.

Program objective for the year included increasing yields and better insect control.

An attempt was made to inform growers of research findings with respect to production practices and insect control through circular letters. One long time alfalfa demonstration was conducted in cooperation with Agronomy, Weed Control and Entomologist Specialist assistance. Timely information was presented growers throughout the year through news papers and radio.

Insect control was given considerable emphasis at the request of producers. Farm visits were made to determine why farmers failed to get control with recommended insecticides. Some cases were found to be failures because of inadequate spray equipment. Also poor insect control was found on some farms using adequate equipment and following recommendations.

Unless more effective insect control measures are found the alfalfa acreage in the county will continue to decline. At present farmers are seeding red clover to compensate for the loss experienced in alfalfa.

Many farmers who have been irrigating tobacco for several years have realized the importance of irrigating at the proper time, and also that it is possible to use too much water to produce a quality crop. However, farmers who irrigated for the first time, are still inclined to over water.

During 1964 which was another drought year, farmers used water from the bottom of their ponds which contained silt particles that were deposited on the leaves of their crop and caused damage. There was also chemical damage from irrigation caused by run off water from an area that had been treated with a brush killer.

The results of all demonstrations were fairly satisfactory, except for the woven plastic plant bed cover and nematode control demonstrations. The plastic material did not produce the results for which it was designed. Moisture did not penetrate the cloth evenly and had a tendency to collect in sagging areas of the cloth.

The nematode control demonstrations did not give full control. However, it is believed that the equipment used should be more accurate in its distribution of the chemical, and extreme care must be taken by the farmer in applying the chemical. On one demonstration, the land was disturbed by the farmer too soon after the chemical was applied.

It is believed that knowledge received from the demonstrations that were conducted this year, that farmers will be much more careful in following instructions and recommendations in the future.

stration using a material that is not detrimental to the quality of tobacco.

Information was given out at county-wide meetings on tobacco production, bulletins were mailed to growers, news articles and radio programs were also used to get the latest research findings into the hands of producers. Disease and nematode assay clinics were held at three points in the county, where farmers were invited to bring their disease problems in for diagnosis.

One variety test demonstration was carried on to assist farmers in selecting the most desirable variety for their farm.

In order to have more accurate and up to date figures on the cost and labor requirements in producing flue-cured tobacco, eight flue-cured tobacco producers are keeping tobacco enterprise records in 1964.

One tobacco policy school was held in the county at which information was presented on the competitive foreign markets; stocks on hand in Stabilization; usage of tobacco by types; production increases, although acreages have been reduced; less tobacco being used per cigarette; price differences on export tobacco, U. S. A. and other tobacco producing countries.

In evaluating the program, it has been noted that farmers are becoming more interested in selecting more suitable soils, they are sending in more soil samples for analysis and fertilizer recommendations and requesting information on selecting varieties.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTAgronomy - Tobacco Production and Policy - Halifax County

Tobacco production and policy was given major emphasis in 1964 because of the confusion among flue-cured tobacco growers. This confusion was brought about by the 10% decrease in flue-cured tobacco allotments, the cancer report, the vast amounts of tobacco in storage and the foreign marketing situation. The use of certain detrimental cultural practices being used by farmers, to increase tobacco yields to compensate for reduced acreages, was also a reason for this phase receiving major emphasis.

The objectives were to assist farmers in producing a more desirable crop for market by selecting more desirable varieties, fertilizing, spacing, topping, and irrigating according to recommendations, disease and insect control, and controlling suckers in a way that would not be objectionable to the buyers.

The flue-cured tobacco committee met early in the year and asked that the Extension Service assist the farmers in solving some of the problems confronting them, such as controlling diseases, insects, suckers and giving them any information that would help them to produce a crop with a minimum of labor and that would be in more demand on the market. In order to carry out their requests, the following demonstrations were set up: two on nematode control; one planted cover demonstration; seven one half-acre chemical weed control demonstrations in the field; and, one sucker control demon-

Notable improvement was made in quality as indicated by the forage analysis tests. Many producers took advantage of the testing service even though they were not in the contest.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTAgronomy - Twenty-Ton Silage Program - Halifax County

Corn silage received major emphasis because of the recognition that county yields average only 8.3 tons per acre as compared to experiment station results of 20 tons or higher per acre.

The program objective included increasing yields and improving the quality of corn silage.

Information pertaining to corn silage production, harvesting storing and feeding was compiled from results of the experiment station for presentation to dairy and livestock producers. Meetings were held for these groups and the program was outlined. Participation was voluntary with a form provided for farmers to indicate their willingness to participate. Relatively few farmers actually carried through the project, but many observed the project with favorable comments.

The small number of farmers that participated in 1964 will serve as a nucleus for increased participation in the future. Because of limited time available to visit individual producers, several failed to complete the program.

Information on varieties and timely production hints was made available through circular letters, news articles, radio and personal contacts.

Farmers participating doubled and tripled the county average yield of corn silage. One producer had in excess of 25 tons per acre and was awarded the 20 ton silage certificate.

leaders included assistance with demonstrations, marketing, arrangements for meetings and tours, conducting meetings, and in carrying out the various other projects for the year.

All adult and youth leaders have devoted considerable time, talent, and thought to the various projects in which they have assisted. Leader cooperation and assistance has contributed materially to the success attained in the projects undertaken in the Extension program. Without leader cooperation, the success of projects undertaken or completed would definitely be less. Valuable assistance provided by leaders extends the arm of Extension in more effectively informing the people and to the socio-economic growth of Halifax County.

Present county leadership is an invaluable aid to the Extension program, but continued emphasis must be placed on the development and training of leaders. The most significant growth has been in the 4-H program. A total of forty-two adult leaders are working with eleven community clubs.

I. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

The organizational structure of the planning committees for the Halifax County Extension Program is headed by the Halifax County Board of Agriculture. Representatives of farm organizations, business interests and chairmen of adult and youth committees from farm, home and youth including: tobacco, forestry, soils and crops, livestock, dairy, housing and house furnishings, clothing, foods and nutrition, garden, home grounds beautification, landscaping, home management, community improvement and youth comprise the board. Each committee is organized and orientated and held separate meetings to devote time to the study of the existing situation, identifying problems, and making recommendations for the advancement of the county agricultural program. County Extension Agents served as resource persons and presented background and technical information to the committees. Each committee adopted recommendations to present to the Halifax County Board of Agriculture for their consideration and approval. The program adopted by the Board included the total county agricultural resources and their development for an effective county Extension program.

Adult project leaders work closely with the Extension personnel throughout the year as members of the commodity committees, that participated in the formulating of the recommendations for the commodity groups along with 4-H and community leaders selected by special groups for special purposes. Assistance provided by these

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COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

H. S. Reynolds

Extension Agent

Louise B. Tune

Extension Agent

R. L. Shaw, Jr.

Assistant Agent

J. R. Gregory

Assistant Agent

Judy S. Sams

Assistant Agent

George W. Gordon, III



1964

Halifax

County