DAIRYING -- PROJECT NO. 8

R. H. Ruffner.

R. H. Ruffner was appointed Dairy Husbandman July 1, 1918, but before the year was out resigned to enter other work; therefore the report on dairying is not as complete, nor does it show as much work accomplished as is desirable.

A large part of the Dairy Husbandman's time while he was employed was spent in becoming familiar with conditions throughout the State. The Influenza epidemic prevented him from holding a great many meetings. However, he laid a foundation for valuable work, and it is regretted that he could not remain to complete it.

PROBLEMS ATTACKED:

The principal problems attacked under this project were,

1st - The organization of cow testing associations.
2nd - The organization of breeders associations.
3rd - The organization of consignment sales.
4th - The production of home-grown feeds.

METHODS EMPLOYED

In order that the Dairy Husbandman might do effective work the first thing he had to do was to gain the confidence of the County Agents and the dairymen throughout the State. This was done by means of personal visits to the Agents, who took the Dairy Husbandman to visit the farmers on their own farms. Opportunity was taken to address as many public meetings as possible. Follow-up work was done by means of personal letters.

During the period employed the Dairy Husbandman travelled 7,944 miles, visited 93 farms, wrote 116 personal letters, judged 3 fairs and addressed 21 meetings, with a total attendance of 1,135 people.

RESULTS OBTAINED

Two new cow testing associations were organized during 1918, and a great deal of work was done to keep alive the associations already in existence. On account of war conditions it was practically impossible to get and keep testers, as most of them either volunteered or were taken in the draft.

Two consignment sales were put on, one by the Albemarle County Holstein Breeders' Association and the other by the Virginia Holstein-Friesian Club. These sales were well attended and the cattle brought satisfactory prices. The breeders were satisfied with the results and expect to make these sales annual affairs.

The Virginia Holstein-Friesian Breeders' Association, the Virginia Jersey Breeders' Association and the Virginia Guernsey Breeders' Association were strengthened and new members added. Each of these Associations held banquets at the State Dairymen's Association, and much breed enthusiasm was shown. The Dairy Husbandman gave particular attention to the formation of local breeders' associations.

Throughout the whole year efforts were made to get the farmers to produce more home grown feeds for dairy cattle, special emphasis being placed on the production of silage, alfalfa and other legumes. Talks were made on this subject at the State Dairymen's Association and the small meetings throughout the State. The Dairy Husbandman gave personal assistance in the erecting of a number of silos.

Perhaps the most notable piece of work started by the Dairy Husbandman was the assistance given in organizing the first Virginia Dairy Calf Club. This was organized in Henrico County, with fifteen members. The Chamber of Commerce in the City of Richmond advanced the money to the boys and girls for the purchase of these calves, taking their notes as security. The calves were bought from one of the best herds around Richmond. So much interest is being

taken in this Club that a number of the other agents are getting ready to organize dairy calf clubs in their counties.