

EXTENSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Catawba Valley, one of the two completely rural communities in the county, has been plagued with stickweed in pastures for sometime.

Because farmers neglected to control this weed it had become very serious from the standpoint of encroaching upon, and shading out good permanent pasture sods. The County A.S.C. Committee, cooperating with Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service, were able to get a special practice through the 1959 program giving farmers some assistance in spraying to eradicate this weed.

Two stickweed control demonstrations were conducted by Allan Kates, our Extension Weed Specialist from V. F. I., on John Grubbs farm in the Back Creek community and J. W. Hylton's farm in Catawba Valley. A total of forty-three people attended the two demonstrations.

After about a month had passed and the Catawba farmers began to observe the excellent results of the demonstration and there was considerable talk and numerous acres of pasture sprayed in the Valley.

T. D. Steele, a purebred Angus breeder and community leader, told the agent this was the best project ever conducted in the Valley. In other words, we obtained action and results from individuals who normally have been slow to adopt new practices and ideas. Farmers have indicated they will do even more extensive spraying this coming year.

We have again requested that the State A.S.C. Committee continue the special stickweed control practice this coming year.

(o) 4-H Christmas Party

One hundred and fifty club members, leaders and parents enjoyed a Christmas Party on December 30, 1958. Honor Club candidates were tapped at this party.

(p) Honor Club Party

A party for the Honor Club was sponsored by the Greenridge 4-H Club. This enables the Honor Club members to become better acquainted so that they can work together more effectively.

(q) Roanoke and Salem Christmas Parade

Two 4-H Club floats were entered in these parades --- one by the County 4-H Council and one by the Greenridge 4-H Club. The Greenridge float won second place in the Salem parade. These floats helped make the public more aware of 4-H work in the county.

was given by power company representatives. Nine 4-H club members gave demonstrations on various aspects of electricity and equipment. A tour of the Times World Corporation and the kitchen at Hotel Roanoke added much interest. The school was concluded by a workshop in which the club members made lamps. In addition, three electric workshops of two meetings each were conducted for individual clubs at night.

(k) 4-H Conservation Camp

Two boys, one girl, and two leaders attended State 4-H Conservation and received valuable training in conservation, camping, and leadership.

(l) State Electric Congress

Roanoke County was selected as one of four counties in the state to receive a blue ribbon in recognition for the County 4-H Electric program. Two county winners plus Kenneth Smedgrass, district winner, attended this event.

(m) 4-H Achievement Day

Results have been mentioned previously in this report.

(n) Sears Pig Chain

This project, sponsored by Sears Roebuck, has been continued for several years with five (5) gilts being placed each year and has helped improve the breeding of livestock in various communities. In addition, it created a lot of interest, competitive spirit, and has taught a good lesson in care and management of a swine enterprise.

(f) Roanoke Area Fat Stock Show and Sale

Seven baby heaves and two heifers were entered by club members. Even though none of the club members were first place winners, they learned a good lesson in livestock production, management, and showmanship.

(g) District Contests

In addition to the judging teams entering district contests, three boys entered demonstrations and all received blue ribbons.

(h) Rural Life Sunday

A number of clubs helped conduct special services in their local churches on Rural Life Sunday. A county-wide service was held at Sherwood Amphitheater in the afternoon. Riley J. Stewart, a former 4-H member, who is now a minister, spoke at the service.

(i) State 4-H Short Course

Seventeen Club members attended State 4-H Short Course. As previously mentioned, two club members were initiated into the Virginia All Star Chapter. Club members consider attending Short Course a wonderful experience and it seems to inspire them and create a lot of enthusiasm.

(j) County Electric School and Tour

Forty club members and leaders attended the Electric School at Appalachian Power Company Auditorium on June 15, 16, and 17th. Instruction in the various phases of electricity

to 4-H Club work during the week and secured advertisers, locally, to pay the cost. This proved to be a very effective way to commemorate the observance and plans are to continue it. In addition, several articles were published in daily papers.

(c) Public Speaking Contest

Theresa Verna of the Wildwood 4-H Club and Ted Carroll of the Catazba Senior Club were chosen winners in the senior division of the County Public Speaking Contest held April 12, 1959. Fifteen club members entered the contest and it helped them develop leadership, courage, and poise. In addition, several clubs held local contests to select representatives to participate in the county contest.

(d) County Demonstration Contest

Forty-four club members participated in different subdivisions of the contest which was held February 7th. The contest was divided into a junior and senior division. The purpose of the junior division was to train club members on how to give a demonstration and enable them to gain the experience; the senior division was designed to select the demonstrations to be entered in the district contests.

(e) Junior Broiler Growers Contest

This contest, held last spring, was climaxed by a barbecue on May 20th. Six club members participated and had a total of 900 birds. A Roanoke County FFA member was area winner. The contest taught the principles of Care and Management of a broiler enterprise.

team were present for district contests, therefore, the team was not eligible for competition.

12. Hold monthly meetings in all school 4-H Clubs from October through May; out-of-school clubs all year. This was done and demonstrations were given monthly by agents and leaders on the county-wide project -- "Safety." Special interest project instruction, counseling, etc., were provided individual club members by local leaders and agents through home visits and special work groups.
13. Used public media to publicize the county 4-H program. Local newspapers and TV stations were used to publicize the program and create interest and enthusiasm on the part of club members.
14. Sponsored or participated in the following special events to stimulate more interest and participation in the county:

(a) County Share-The-Fun program. This was held

on April 10 and a total of fourteen acts were presented before an audience of 350. A committee of club members did an excellent job of planning, rehearsing, lighting, etc. An act in the junior division was the overall winner of the program. Awards were sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Kiwanis Club and Alex Wimmer Tire Company.

(b) National 4-H Club Week Observance

During this week the Greenridge 4-H Club Club displayed and educational exhibits in the window of WBLB - TV Station. The County 4-H Council and two clubs placed exhibits in store windows and nine clubs decorated bulletin boards at their schools. Two TV programs were made by club members. The local weekly paper (Salem Times Register) devoted an entire section of the paper

Alyna Greer - Achievement -- Trip to Kentucky 4-H Club Week. In addition Harold Cream, outstanding dairyman in the county, received the State Alumni Recognition Plaque.

Three participants won district awards as follows:

Richard Gunker - Poultry -- Trip to State Poultry Federation Convention.

Wayne Koffer - Safety -- \$25 Savings Bond.

Kenneth Snodgrass - Electric -- 19 Jewel Watch.

7. Published a 4-H yearbook to better inform club members, parents, leaders and businessmen of 4-H Club activities, purposes, and programs.

The 4-H yearbook was published in December 1938 and was sponsored by the First National Exchange Bank of Knoxville. This, the fourth edition of the yearbook, was assembled by a committee of club members. The response again was most favorable and plans are to continue this as a means of acquainting the public about 4-H Club work.

8. Took advantage of opportunities for 4-H Club members, leaders, and agents to speak to civic groups and other organizations to enlighten the public about 4-H work in the county. Programs have been provided for fifteen groups and all club members, leaders, and agents were favorably received.

9. Continued having the 4-H leaders organization meet quarterly to receive professional training, to share ideas, and discuss mutual problems. Doing this has resulted in better trained and more enthusiastic volunteer leaders.

10. Recommend outstanding older club members for membership in the County Honor Club and All Star Chapter which provides special recognition for them and a greater opportunity for leadership and service. Twenty-one new members were initiated into Honor Club, three of these being leaders initiated into honorary membership.

Mabel Newton and Walter Hinton were initiated into the Virginia All Star Chapter.

11. Offered judging training in livestock, dairy, and poultry fields to all qualified and interested club members. The poultry judging team placed first in the district and fifth in the state. One member of this team was high individual in the state and will compete in the National Contest as a member of the first state team. Only two members of the livestock

2. Encouraged local civic clubs, banks, businesses, and other agencies to continue their cooperation, interest and sponsorship of 4-H activities and events and attempt to secure new sponsors. This worked out very successfully with the groups and agencies mentioned sponsoring trips for 4-H members to attend various 4-H activities, sponsoring a council luncheon, providing prize money, ribbons, and trophies for \$2000.00 competitive activities, plus many other things.

The Salem Rotary Club, which had not sponsored 4-H work the past few years, provided prize money for the County Public Speaking contest this year.

3. Planned a 4-H Camp for all eligible club members. This was held with Botetourt County at Holiday Lake, July 13 - 18th. Seventy-two club members and five leaders from the county attended this camp. Rosi Lonitz from Roanoke was selected Big Chief and Barbara Holland, also of Roanoke County, Big Scribe. Club members from both counties shared equally in responsible jobs. A camp newspaper, published daily by club members, created a lot of interest.
4. Sent older 4-H members to other out-of-county camps for the purpose of leadership training. Three club members and two leaders attended Conservation Camp and fifteen club members attended Senior Camp at Virginia Beach.
5. Gave special recognition to outstanding club members, leaders, and sponsors through the annual 4-H Achievement Day. This observance was held on November 7, and approximately 400 people attended. Seven clubs displayed educational exhibits, six club members displayed individual educational exhibits, and a number of club members exhibited items from their project work. A County King and Queen of Achievement were crowned, banners were presented to outstanding clubs, county medals to club members, plus many other awards.
6. Encouraged top 4-H members, through the personal assistance of leaders, to enter achievement records in the State Contests. Through this assistance and the efforts of outstanding club members, seven records were entered on April 1, 1959, and one on August 1, 1959.
Four of these participants won state awards as follows:

Garland Craun - Swine -- Trip to National
4-H Club Congress;

Wayne Layman - Garden -- Trip to Nations.
4-H Club Congress;

Tommy Coffman - Leadership -- Trip to Natural
Resource Conference -- Fontana Village and Records
entered in Sectional and National Contest.

The County 4-H Leaders organization, initiated in March 1936, is very active and has a potential membership of some 50 adult and Junior 4-H leaders. The group meets quarterly for professional training and fellowship.

The County 4-H Honor Club, with a membership of 53, recognize outstanding club members and encourage them to continue in 4-H.

Each member carries the Junior Leadership project and this greatly aids in developing leadership among the boys and girls.

The County All Star Chapter is becoming more active and has assisted by helping plan, conduct and provide judges for various activities.

Work in the county 4-H program is shared by all Extension Agents. This has proven valuable in keeping everyone aware of the program merits, problems, and needs. However, requests for assistance in other phases of the overall County Extension program, both from rural and urban people, has left the agents insufficient time to give club members the assistance they rightly deserve.

b. METHODS AND RESULTS

The following methods were utilized in carrying out the 4-H program with the results as indicated:

1. Attempted to secure the interest and active cooperation of a local organizational or sponsor leader for each 4-H club, plus project leaders for special interest groups.

As a result, each club has at least one adult leader, and and others have served. Work was begun toward training the leaders as a group and having them conduct their club meetings and give or train a club member to give the monthly demonstration. 4-H adult leaders have greatly aided to the scope and success of the 4-H program and plans are to utilize their assistance more in the future.

4-H CLUB WORK

A. SITUATION

4-H Club work is considered one of the most important phases of the overall Extension programs. In an urban area such as this, there is a great need for providing opportunities for the club members to use their spare time wisely. A wide variety of activities are carried on each year, in addition to project work, to accomplish this and aid the boys and girls in developing into useful citizens.

In 1959 a youth committee was organized to study the situation, formulate objectives and goals and decide on methods to reach these. With the aid of this committee, the 4-H program is being developed so that it will better meet the needs of the club members.

During the 1958 - 59 club year, 809 boys and girls were enrolled in 27 organized clubs. Eight of these clubs met on a community basis and nineteen met in the schools during school hours.

Each year, the County 4-H Council selects a county-wide project which all club members are enrolled in. In 1958 - 59 this was Safety and a demonstration on this project was given at each meeting by agents or leaders. Many club members conduct additional projects under the supervision of adult leaders and agents.

A strong and active County 4-H Council meets three times a year and serves as the legislative body for the county 4-H program. The council president appoints a committee for each activity and the committees plan the activity with the guidance of leaders and agents.

were made this past year for information on pruning, spraying, planting, landscaping, insect and disease control of ornamentals.

A school was conducted in an afternoon covering most of the above topics with fifty-two persons attending. The county agent is working jointly with the Beanoke Nurserymen's Association at the present -- planning four night school programs on these subjects for the public for next February.

We feel, well planned educational programs in the form of schools will be well attended and beneficial to many non-farm and urban residents.

WEED CONTROL

a. RESULTS

Weed control is becoming a major problem with many of our farmers. Allan Kates our Weed Specialist at V. F. I. has conducted twenty different demonstrations in the county this year of which those that farmers were invited to attend have been discussed under other topics. Several of these demonstrations were experimental -- involving Kates, Agents, and individual farmers using new and promising chemicals. Some good result data was obtained.

This undertaking was not as successful as had been anticipated. Fred Breiling from V. F. I., conducted a apple and peach tree pruning demonstration in the Cave Spring community with nineteen farmers present.

Bruce Aroian from V. F. I., conducted two grape pruning demonstrations in Vinton and Cave Spring with thirty-one present. Some individuals attending the school pruned their neighbors grapes and were told they had ruined their vines after the job was over. After grape harvest this fall this pruning method is highly respected.

Our fruit producers are contributing more freely to voluntary fruit advertising programs realizing that more promotional work must be done.

Little progress has been made to date on improved processing and marketing facilities.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

a. RESULTS

Due to our heavy daily routine program and a complete turnover in home agents two years in a row, only ten days of the agents time was devoted to this program this past year. Additional personnel will have to be available before much progress can be made.

ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

a. RESULTS

This is fast becoming a major field for the county agents in Roanoke County and city. Numerous office and telephone requests

b. GOALS

1. To conduct a local tour for fruit growers in June.
2. To continue monthly meetings of the Roanoke-Botetourt Fruit Growers organization.
3. Educate growers as to need for more advertising of apples and peaches.
4. To conduct fruit tree and small fruits pruning demonstrations.
5. To encourage more small growers to attend meetings.
6. To improve the handling, grading, and marketing procedures.
7. To stimulate continued interest in establishing a terminal wholesale produce market in the area.

c. METHODS

1. An organized tour of Roanoke-Botetourt fruit producers was held at V.F.I. in July.
2. New developments in fruit culture were stressed. This was done through monthly meetings, newspaper, radio, TV, bulletins, correspondence and personal visits.
3. Cooperated with V.F.I. Horticultural Specialists in holding timely spray programs, pruning demonstrations, and mouse control demonstrations.
4. Study the need and possibilities of a central apple processing plant for the area.

d. RESULTS

Timely topics were presented at the monthly meetings of fruit growers giving them helpful information for producing and marketing a quality crop of peaches and apples. Several local growers signed contracts with the Virginia Fruit Marketers Cooperative, Inc., hoping this organization could bargain with the processors for a better price for processing apples.

6. Publicized garden insect and disease control methods through newspaper, radio, TV, office calls, bulletins, and personal visits.

d. RESULTS

Insect and disease problems continue to plague our commercial vegetable and home gardeners. Our growers are doing a much better job of controlling insects and diseases because they know they have to produce quality products to meet competition.

The latest control methods are obtained through monthly meeting, news articles, radio, TV, and tours to V.F.I.

Several members and their wives attended the vegetable field day and tour at V.F.I. last August.

The local Farm Bureau and interested business and civic leaders have made surveys and studied our local marketing problems, but as yet have not come up with a solution which they think would be workable in the Roanoke area.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUIT

a. Situation

Some twenty per cent of farm income in Roanoke County is derived from fruit sales. An active Roanoke-Betétourt Fruit Growers organization meets monthly. The major problems continue to be marketing fruit at a profit, insect and disease control and storage problems. The Bent Mountain fruit growers who produce primarily processing varieties are in bad need of a larger processing plant in the area. There are three cold storage plants in Roanoke and several hundred bushels of apples were brought to the plants this fall from Northern Virginia and Maryland. New plantings of orchards are not keeping pace with loss of old orchards in the county.

for programs on timely topics. Insect, weed and disease control accounts for the major requests concerning vegetable production which the agents get from commercial and home gardeners. The lack of adequate facilities curtails vegetable production in the valley.

Local chain store warehouses serve as a distribution center for a large area. Kroger just completed a warehouse covering five acres.

Roanoke independent groceries composing of 96 members, is building a large warehouse at present just east of Salem.

b. GOALS

1. To continue monthly meetings of vegetable producers group.
2. To organize a county special interest committee to study problems, needs, and opportunities in vegetable production.
3. To conduct at least one vegetable tour for local growers during the month of August.
4. Continue to work for terminal market.
5. To continue the war against insect and disease problems.

c. METHODS

1. Monthly meetings of vegetable growers association were held to keep growers advised concerning new production and marketing practices.
2. A tour of the vegetable plots at V.F.I. was held in August.
3. Assisted and encouraged continued support of a terminal wholesale produce market in the Roanoke area.
4. Used V.F.I. Horticultural Specialists in programs, tours, and demonstrations as needed.
5. An effort was made to set up a special interest committee to study county-wide production, problems, needs and opportunities.

interested poultry promoters to discuss their problems and arrive at some solutions. Three such meetings were held with an average attendance of fifteen people. Then the State Poultry Federation came into the picture with their "pep" program (Poultry Expansion Program). One meeting was held for feed dealers, professional workers, bankers and other credit agencies. Approximately one hundred attended this meeting and barbecue. A second meeting was held at Hotel Patrick Henry with producers attending in addition to representatives mentioned above. Eighty-five attended this meeting.

d. RESULTS

Poultry producers are becoming aware of the need for a more stable and secure market for their eggs. Egg prices this year has caused some deep thinking.

Plans have been made for a poultry school on December 8th of area producers to discuss outlook markets, management factors, and possibly forming an area organization with sub-committees to further study problems and suggest ways and types of educational programs which should benefit all interested parties connected with poultry in general.

The two larger egg producers in the county have added 10,000 additional layers each this year to become more efficient and meet competition. Bensmore Poultry Farm now has 32,000 layers and W. B. Coles and Sons have 26,000 birds. Several smaller producers have increased flock size.

Educational programs were presented monthly on subjects such as brooding and hatching flock, care of replacement pullets, insect and disease control to the egg producers association.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

a. Situation

The Roanoke Vegetable Growers Association continues to meet monthly

to retake our local market. Retail chain stores have offered to take local eggs, especially to build up good local public relations, but producers so far have not been willing to give up their individual customers to set up a Federal State Grading Station or a commercial one to market, handle and merchandise the majority of local eggs. Egg producers have not reached the maximum efficiency in producing eggs. The Lindsey-Robinson and Company Egg Grading Station at Farmville, which was built last year, is receiving very few eggs from this area.

b. GOALS

1. To improve all poultry management practices in the county.
2. To encourage egg producers to expand their poultry operations, making them more efficient and practical.
3. To promote better facilities for egg handling, grading and merchandising.
4. To strengthen the present county egg producers organization which meets monthly.

c. METHODS

1. A general educational program of news articles, circulars, and monthly poultry hints were used.
2. Taught through daily contacts the possibilities of improving egg marketing.
3. Use of radio, television and press to emphasize the need for efficient production in conserving and increasing grain and increasing profits.
4. Poultry specialists and Division of Markets representatives were used.
5. The Extension Agents cooperated with Dr. Ringrose, Poultry Specialist at V.P.I., in contacting local feed companies fieldmen in order to bring together to a joint meeting, all

interest among farmers. Even two new hog parlors built in 1958 were vacant part of the year.

Valleydale Packers, after purchasing the Lindsey-Robinson Feed Company, has offered to farmers a hog contract program, but up to the present time only one farmer in the county has signed a contract.

There was a decreased interest in the market hog show and sale held last spring jointly with the baby beef show and sale.

A changing over to a meat type hog is taking place among the producers staying with swine production as a supplemental enterprise.

SHEEP

a. RESULTS

Sheep numbers are constant in the county, at around 1500 ewes. Farmers were very aggravated at prices paid by United Wool Growers Association on the previous two years wool crop, and most producers sold their 1959 cut to private companies. A more thorough job of docking and castrating is being done since lamb buyers requested that castrated lambs be sold separate from those that haven't been castrated.

POULTRY

a. Situation

Some 50 per cent of eggs consumed in the Roanoke area are produced here. Due to depressed broiler markets more interest is being shown in egg production. Egg producers are finally becoming aware of the fact that once other areas take over our markets here it will be more difficult for local producers.

people attended the dairy school held last February from Roanoke and Botetourt Counties. Twenty-four from Roanoke County. Record keeping, weed and insect control talks were given by VPI Specialists. Our dairymen requested that these schools be continued. We contribute the noted progress being made in the above mentioned fields to information presented at schools, tours, through publications, news articles, TV and personal contacts.

Farmers are continually improving the quality of pasture, hay and silage produced by better weed and insect control as covered under the agronomy report. The majority of alfalfa hay in the county is conditioned and mowed at proper stage for palatability and higher protein feeding value.

Thirty-five dairymen, businessmen took a four-day educational tour through West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, to observe dairy, beef and horse farms, as well as other places of interest.

FORESTRY

a. RESULTS

Insect and disease problems have been the nature of most forest requests coming to the agents. Some few farmers have planted forest seedlings and five have talked to the agent about growing Christmas trees.

HOGS

a. RESULTS

Due to the extremely low price of hogs there has been very little

2. Increase number of cows being bred artificially by 15 per cent in the county.
3. Improve the forage program on dairy farms by tours, demonstrations and pasture improvement program.
4. To encourage vaccination on more herd replacements for the control of bangs disease.
5. Cooperate with all dairy groups in educational activities and sales.
6. Increase alfalfa acreage where practical and assist in disease and insect control by demonstrations.

c. METHODS

1. Conducted a dairy school in February and October.
2. Encouraged more dairymen to keep good records on herds through either DHIA or the weigh-a-day-a-month program.
3. Through personal contacts, and the use of publicity media, dairymen will be encouraged to take advantage of artificial breeding.
4. Cooperate with dairy cattle sales.
5. Continue the annual dairy tour in August, arranging for stops on trip to be educational as well as recreational.

d. RESULTS

More dairymen are realizing the value of records in helping them become more efficient in order to meet the price-cost squeeze.

Seven DHIA members have been transferred over to the new EDPM Electronic record program giving them a more complete and legible record. Two dairymen are waiting to get on DHIA. Progress has been made with other dairymen in getting them to keep their own individual cow records.

Our artificial technician reports a 15 - 25 per cent increase in artificial breeding this year over last year. Forty-three

Producers from six counties consigned 694 calves to the Spring Yearling Sale, 692 to the Fall Steer Sale and 990 to the Fall Feeder Calf Sale.

The quality of these calves continue to improve as farmers purchase superior registered sires and cull their breeding stock.

Forage quality has improved since the majority of our farmers use hay conditioners in saving hay and make high tonnage of silage.

Grazing periods have been lengthened on many beef farms with efficient pasture management.

DAIRY CATTLE

A. Situation

There are thirty-five Grade A Dairies in the county and 17 of these are on the DHIA program which includes 801 cows of the total 3351 dairy cows.

A small number of Grade C producers continue selling milk to Southern Dairies. Usually about two producers are taken on the local Grade A market each year.

Farmers continue to take advantage of artificial breeding offered by the Virginia Artificial Breeding Center and Curtis Candy Company.

Dairymen are experiencing a cost price squeeze with the outlook for milk being a continued downward trend in price.

B. GOALS

- I. To enroll at least five dairymen in a record keeping program.

Number and quality of calves marketed through the Roanoke Feeder Calf Sales continue to improve.

The Star Hereford and Roanoke Valley Angus Associations continue to conduct annual fall and spring purebred sales where many producers purchase improved breeding stock.

b. GOALS

1. To increase the number of consignors to the local feeder calf sale each year.
2. Stress improved forage programs through demonstrations, tours and pasture contest.
3. To cooperate with area veterinarians and help educate farmers as to the importance of vaccinating herd replacements.
4. To cooperate with state veterinarians when our county is declared under test for bangs.

c. METHODS

1. Educate the need of and assist farmers in securing better sires and females.
2. Cooperate with local purebred sales held in the area.
3. Organize a livestock committee.
4. Cooperated with Feeder Calf Sale Committee and helped in sponsoring a fall feeder calf sale in the Roanoke area.
5. Call upon livestock specialists and agronomists at V.P.I. to assist committeemen and agents in conducting the above mentioned events.
6. All types of media such as TV, news articles, bulletins and correspondence to educate farmers was used.
7. Organized and conducted a Spring Yearling Feeder Calf Sale.

d. RESULTS

There were nine new livestock producers from Roanoke County consigning calves to our Feeder Calf Sales this year.

T. D. Steele told the agent the stickweed demonstration obtained more results than anything Extension had ever attempted in the Catauba Valley. Farmers are talking about plans for spraying additional acres next year.

A chickweed control demonstration was conducted by Kates on Frank McDonald's alfalfa field with excellent results being obtained. Twenty-seven farmers attended this demonstration on a chilly, rainy day; however, weather conditions were such during and after the spraying season that controls were not as important as had been the case the two previous years.

Three demonstrations were established using granular heptachlor in fertiliser for alfalfa weevil control.

Through demonstrations, personal contacts and public media, farmers obtained information on the three methods of controlling alfalfa weevil and an excellent job of controlling the weevil was obtained this year. The heptachlor in fertiliser was the principal method used.

Progress has been made this year with pasture improvement on several farms even though pastures were not scored in the forage program contest because of a drought during the usual scoring period.

BEEF CATTLE

a. Situation

Beef cattle numbers have increased in the county due to improved prices and the cattle cycle picture.

The two weekly auction markets and Valleydale Packers provide the most efficient livestock marketing service we have ever had in the Roanoke area.

drought and can be used for hay, silage or pasture in a year-round forage program.

3. To continue present pasture demonstrations.
4. To encourage more farmers to take soil samples and use recommended applications of lime and fertilizers.
5. Demonstrate the control of chickweed and insects on alfalfa.
6. Encourage more farmers to use recommended seed varieties.
7. To acquaint farmers on current problems through TV, radio programs, newspaper, bulletins and personal contacts.

c. **METHODS**

The agronomy committee sponsored the 12-month forage program and revised our score card to include the total feed supply rather than just a pasture program.

The three FFA teachers and two Extension agents visited sixty-five participants, discussed with them their forage program and suggested alternatives for improvement as we scored their program.

A machinery demonstration and display was given by local machinery dealers and bankers contributed prizes and awards. A chickweed control demonstration was conducted in the Hellins vicinity with many outstanding farmers and interested businessmen attending. Over two hundred acres of alfalfa was sprayed for chickweed control after the demonstration. Tons of fertilizer sold in Roanoke County during the past year totaled over seven thousand.

d. **RESULTS**

Two stickweed control demonstrations were conducted by Allan Kates in the Catawba and Back Creek communities with thirty-five farmers attending. Numerous acres of pasture was sprayed by farmers on their own and through a special stickweed control program obtained through the A. S. C. program.

ACTIVITIES

AGRONOMY

a. Situation

Beaneke County farmers are growing less crops and changing to a grassland farming program. Many of our progressive dairy and beef farmers save their excess spring pasture and first or more cuttings of alfalfa as silage. This has come about due to two primary reasons. First, there is always a surplus of grass in the spring and periodic summer droughts have created a need for some summer feeding and drought resistant crops for supplemental grazing. Second, expensive machinery and operational cost has forced farmers to purchase the necessary machinery to do the total job most economical. For some farms this has meant a forage harvester for smaller farmers hiring custom work done. The county agronomy committee after studying the situation came up with the following program to concentrate on during this year. That the twelve-month forage program be continued with special emphasis on lengthening grazing periods by seeding supplemental and winter pasture. That demonstrations on insect and weed control is needed to improve the quality of forage crops and pasture. Farmers still need to apply additional tons of lime and fertilizer to obtain efficient and maximum yields.

b. GOALS FOR YEAR

1. Establish additional acres of improved pasture.
2. To continue a county pasture club with appropriate awards and incentive prizes for the promotion of the pasture improvement program; to encourage combination mixtures which can withstand

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

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