

Fair

Assistance was given the fair committee in planning and conducting the Greene County Fair.

II. COOPERATIVES ASSISTED

Orange-Madison-Greene Feeder Calf Sale Association, Inc.

The county agent assisted the local feeder calf sale association with organization, finance, and business policies of producers. A total of four hundred thirty one calves were sold for Greene County Farmers through the two auction sales conducted by the Association.

Orange Area Wool Pool

The agent assisted with the original organization of this pool and assisted with selling and assembling the wool for shipment. Twenty farmers sold three thousand pounds of wool through the pool.

Northern Feeder Pig Association Incorporated

The County Extension assisted the Northern Feeder Pig Association organize by holding county meetings to discuss the possibilities with farmers and conduct surveys. Two Greene County farmers have sold pigs through the Association Sales .

VIII. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES - VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The County Extension cooperated with the Division of Animal Industry and carried educational work for the County Bangs Testing Program. The Extension assisted with planning and carrying out the program. All but just a very few herds have been tested.

The Extension also planned and assisted with a Bangs Vaccination Program. Approximately four hundred and fifty heifers were vaccinated during the year.

A.S.C.

The county agent attends the A.S.C. committee meetings, and assisted with developing and carrying out the 1960 program. The agent also assisted with developing the 1961 program. The agent also assisted with the educational phase of the program.

Soil Conservation Service

There being no Soil Conservation Technician located in the county the Extension Agent acts as liaison with the work unit Technician whose office is in adjoining county. The agent also is serving on the committee of Conservation Needs.

F.H.A.

The county agent worked with the FHA Supervisor in securing reference on Loan Applicants and obtaining committeemen to serve on the board.

expressed interest in this type of record keeping.

It is hard to get from farmers the basic information necessary to draw up a complete farm plan.

VII. 4-H CLUB WORK

There were one hundred twenty three boys enrolled in thirteen clubs throughout the county. Those boys plus three girls conducted one hundred eighty-nine projects. One hundred nine projects were completed.

Five boys attended 4-H Camp at Holiday Lake and two attended the State 4-H Short Course. One boy was accepted by the All-Star organization.

Four boys and three girls showed Baby Beavers in the Charlottesville Baby Beef Show and Sale. Calvin Powell won a third place in the Light Hereford Division. Although the children did not win as many ribbons as usual, all the calves graded chdoes which was better than usual.

John Bowman won reserve championship with the Poland China Hog in the Orange Area Hardest Hog Show and Sale. Griffin Powell won first place in his class with a Yorkshire and Merrill Powell won sixth place.

The County Senior 4-H Club entered a Float in the County Fair Parade.

F. Horticulture

Horticulture in the county is limited to vegetable growing. Practically all vegetables grown are used at home. A few farmers and/or homemakers grow a little surplus for sale.

Extension teaching was aimed at insect and disease control, varieties, mulching, and winter cover crops.

Twenty 4-H members conducted garden projects. They were given instructions in the regular club meetings and given bulletins pertaining to insect and disease control and varieties.

A monthly garden letter was sent to each person on the garden mailing list. Bulletins on garden topics were distributed to gardeners on request.

VI. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Three farms were assisted this year through the farm and home development approach. One is a grade A dairy farm, one a general livestock and poultry farm and the other a livestock farm with the operator working off the farm.

Neither farm has a complete farm plan drawn up yet. Neither has adequate farm records from which to make wise decisions.

The agent has been working with the dairy farmer to get him started on production records. These records are very important in making decisions of feeding and breeding. It is hoped that production records can be started soon.

It is hoped that the general livestock poultry farm can get started on electric records at the beginning of 1961. He has

and less active. Poultrymen are looking more to the State and National level for their information.

As poultrymen are so few all work is done individually. Monthly letters prepared by the Extension Poultry Specialist were sent to each poultryman. County Extension Work was directed toward efficient work methods, disease control and marketing. Some work was done this year toward reorganizing the poultry committee and starting a more effective county program.

E. Forestry

About one-third of the land in farms is occupied by forests. A large percent of this is cut over land that has grown back in brush or undesirable species. Over one-third of all woodland is grazed. Practically all timber is sold by tract with no provisions for leaving seed trees or trees that are still making good growth.

Forestry Extension Work was to encourage better woodland management by protecting it from grazing, disposing of weed trees for fuel, or by poisoning. Selective harvesting of timber and reforestation was encouraged.

More farmers are becoming aware of the value of their forest land each year and are following better management practices. Several farmers who have sold their timber recently have had it marked, estimated and harvested selectively. About seventy-five thousand forest tree seedlings were planted in the county this year.

The greatest need is adequate production records to provide a basis for culling, breeding, and feeding according to production.

The object is to get each dairyman to keep individual cow production records either by a self made system, weigh-A-day, owner-sampler or D.H.I.A.

Some headway is being made toward this objective. One of the new dairymen, who has recently moved to this county, is enrolled in D.H.I.A. One other started D.H.I.A. testing this year.

As there is only six commercial dairymen in the county all work with dairy has been by personal contact.

D. Poultry

About three-fourth of the farmers in the county keep some type or poultry. However, commercial production has narrowed down to about twenty-five farms.

Turkey production is about all in the hands of two commercial organizations. Their operations are distributed over about a half dozen farms. Although, turkey production has increased about forty percent during the last census period.

About ten farms are producing about ninety percent of the broilers at present. Broiler production has tripled in the past census period. Three big chicken hatching egg operators have come into being in the last two years.

As the poultry business is falling in the hands of fewer and fewer individuals the Extension Poultry Committee has become less

Roebuck Sow Chain Project. They are required to furnish pasture, mineral, an adequate farrowing house, and to feed a balanced ration. They are offered incentive awards for doing this.

They are also required to follow all other good swine husbandry practices. The best breeding stock is secured for this project.

Four -H boys conducting the market hog project are supervised closely and improvements in management practices are recommended when needed. Members are assisted and advised on securing a good meat type pig with which to begin their project. At least ninety percent of the hogs shown in the market hog show at Orange grade U.S. I.

Four farmers were assisted individually this year in selecting and securing good meat type purebred boars.

From observation farmers are doing a better job with their hogs. They are more conscious of the meat type and are growing the hogs out at younger ages.

C. Dairy

Practically every farm in the county has one or more dairy cows. Six farmers are producing Grade A Milk. There are no grade B producers, and with all other farms dairying is a family-cow or cows proposition with surplus sold as cream.

All dairies are located in the area where the Albemarle Artificial Breeding Association services are available.

The greatest problem is low production. It is estimated that the average annual production per cow is around six thousand to seven thousand pounds.

2. Sheep

Sheep numbers have declined during the last census period. Historically sheep have been in the hands of the smaller farmers. As these farmers have been forced to find off-farm employment the sheep enterprises have been discontinued. This in-part has caused the decline in sheep numbers.

There has not been much promotional work done to increase sheep numbers. Most of the work done has been flock management. It was expected that if flocks were profitable numbers would increase.

About forty percent of the flock owners drench their sheep for internal parasite control. About one-third of the sheep in the county are dipped each year for external parasite control.

3. Swine

Greene is not a commercial hog producing county; however, the majority of livestock farmers sell some hogs and this enterprise produces about one-fourth of the livestock income for the county.

Greene is not a grain producing county, there is not much incentive for expansion in the swine industry. Extension's aim in this field is to do a little better job of husbandry and to promote a meat type hog.

For the most part work with hogs is done through 4-H demonstrations, namely, The Sears-Roebuck Sow Chain and the Market Hog Project. All other work has been done with the individual.

Eight 4-H Members have sow or sow-pigs provided by the Sears

Based on the average price of feeder calves the livestock committee estimated that it took the price of about a four hundred pound calf grading good to support a cow for a year. The committee thought that the feeder calves produced in the county would average four hundred pounds in weight and average good in grade. With this situation in mind the committee set the objective of increasing the weight and improving the grades of calves.

Emphasis this year was on the use of fast gaining bulls, breeding early to get heavier calves at market time. The bangs vaccination program was continued as usual. Another major undertaking this year was a county Bangs Testing Program in connection with the Division of Animal and Dairy Industry.

A number of farmers attended the KOP Bull Sale at Outleper and observed the work of KOP testing and the benefits of fast gaining bulls. Farmers are becoming conscious of the value of fast gaining bulls. One farmer started performance testing this year. Feeder calves were heavier and better quality than usual this year.

The testing program got off slowly but moved along satisfactorily after it got started. The testing is practically completed. Approximately five thousand cows were tested. About four hundred beef heifers were bangs vaccinated.

Twenty-two farmers sold four hundred thirty-one calves through the organized feeder calf sale in 1960. This is the most calves ever sold in the sales and the most farmers ever participating.

varieties and fertilizer grades.

Judging from fertilizer and seed sales some progress is being made in increasing fertilizer applications and the use of varieties adapted to the area.

This has been a better than average corn year and farmers made satisfactory yields all over the county.

B. Livestock

Either beef cattle, sheep, hogs or a combination of the different classes of livestock are found on most farms in Greene County. Four hundred forty-six reported owning beef cattle in 1959, three hundred ninety-six reported hogs and seventy-five reported owning sheep.

The climate and topography lends its-self well to livestock production. Much of the rolling land, too steep for row-crops, is well suited for pasture. Every farm has enough tillable land to produce feed crops for winter feeding.

The outlook, the suitability of the land and adaptability of sheep to other livestock enterprises justifies a one-hundred percent increase in sheep numbers.

1. Beef Cattle

Practically all beef production is confined to a cow and calf enterprise. Almost all farmers market their beef animals either as feeder calves or as feeder yearlings. About three farmers feed out their yearlings for slaughter sometimes if prices and feed supplies warrant feeding them.

As recommended by the Agronomy Committee the Extension Program was directed toward a twelve month forage program, with alfalfa and supplemental pasture filling in the gaps and increasing corn yields.

1. Forage Crops:

For the past several years the agronomy thought that most emphasis should be put on forage crops particularly increasing the acreage and yields of alfalfa.

News articles, circular letters, personal contacts and field demonstrations have been used to acquaint farmers with the value of alfalfa, soils suitable for alfalfa, varieties, and insect and weed control. These efforts have resulted in a sixty-five percent increase in alfalfa acreage in the past five years. This is short of the goal but still satisfactory in light of the weevil and chickweed problems of the past several years.

2. Grain Crops

As small grain yields have been fairly satisfactory the agronomy committee felt that the Extension Program should emphasize increasing corn yields and set the goal of increasing the yields from forty-six bushels per acre to sixty-five bushels.

The chief problems to be overcome in attaining this goal is inadequate fertilization - especially nitrogen, poorly adapted varieties and weeds.

A news article in the local paper during April featured corn varieties and fertilizer recommendations. These recommendations were discussed with dealers who agreed to stock and advertise recommended

Broiler production spiraled from one hundred eighteen thousand in 1954 to five hundred twenty thousand in 1959. Only about one-third as many farmers produced turkeys and/or broilers in 1959 compared with 1954.

The number of other livestock remained about the same during the last census period but fewer farms produced them.

As farms get larger and more specialized there are more part-time farmers. Each year more farmers and particularly farm women are finding employment off the farm.

IV. COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATION

The present Extension Organization consist of commodity committees, namely; Livestock, Dairy, Poultry, Agronomy, and Fair. Each committee met one or more times during the year to plan and/or carry out the Annual Extension Program.

V. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. Agronomy

Greene is principally a livestock producing county and needs more and better hay and pasture crops. There is about 3.49 acres of pasture per animal unit, but, as pointed out by the agronomy committee too much of this is unimproved pasture and not enough supplemental summer and winter pasture to provide adequate year round forage for the livestock.

Corn yields are too low, averaging about forty-six bushels per acre , small grain yields are fairly satisfactory.

III.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY AND TYPE OF AGRICULTURE.

Orange County is located in the North Piedmont

Section of Virginia and is bordered on the north and east by Orange and Madison, on the south and west by Albemarle and Rockingham.

About forty percent of the ninety-seven thousand acres in the county is occupied by the Blue Ridge Mountains and foothills. Seventy thousand seven hundred acres make up the six hundred and sixty-two farms in the county.

The principal soil types in the county are loess, Starr, Cecil, and Blawiee. By far the principle income of the county is from agriculture. A number of farmers supplement their income by working in Orange, Elkton, Madison, and Charlottesville.

There is no railroad in the county but two excellent highways dissect the county. The nearest railroad is thirteen miles from Stauntonville, the county seat.

The number of farms declined from six hundred sixty two in 1954 to four hundred and forty nine in 1959. the number was reduced fifty-five by change in definition. The average size of farms increased from one hundred and one acres to one hundred seventeen acres during the same period. The gross income per farm remains about the same as 1954.

The number of turkeys produced jumped from two hundred three thousand to two hundred eighty nine thousand.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	COVER AND TITLE PAGE	-----	PAGE
II.	TABLE OF CONTENTS	-----	1
III.	BRIEF DISCRPTION OF COUNTY AND TYPE OF AGRICULTURE	-----	2
IV.	COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATION	-----	3
V.	PROJECT ACTIVITIES	-----	3
	A. Agronomy	-----	3
	1. Forage Crops	-----	4
	2. Grain Crops	-----	4
	B. Livestock	-----	5
	1. Beef Cattle	-----	5 - 6
	2. Sheep	-----	7
	3. Swine	-----	7
	C. Dairy	-----	8
	D. Poultry	-----	9
	E. Forestry	-----	10
	F. Horticulture	-----	11
VI.	FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT	-----	11
VII.	4-H CLUB WORK	-----	12
VIII.	COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES	-----	13
	A.S.C.	-----	13
	Soil Conservation Service	-----	13
	F.N.A.	-----	13
	Fair	-----	14
IX.	COOPERATIVES ASSISTED	-----	14

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

W. M. DEWEY

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Title

Assistant Agent



1960

GENERAL

County