

3. The guidance, supervision, and cooperation of Mr. Ross W. Newsome, State Agent, and Mr. S. E. Marshall, District Agent, who helps to supply us with extension and specialist help, have played a major role in program development. Also information supplied from Virginia State College, and the Horticulture Department, under the direction and cooperation of Mr. Vernon Watts, Associate Horticulturist. Each year Mr. Watts comes to us and assist us with our on farm market program and our sweet potato festival. He brings to us first hand information from the Virginia Truck Experiment Station. During his visit here, we get a chance to have non-farm people to discuss with him their problems on insect, pest control, and other problems related to their lawns, trees, shrubbery, and soil.

## SUMMARY:

In an effort to evaluate the years activity in brief, I will aim at it in the light of measuring results thus far accomplished. In carrying on an extension program it is important to occasionally measure the result of the recommended practices employed. I feel that a continuation of more planned project activity is needed. Method and result demonstration lessons taught at the demonstration and a stronger public relations program will always help us to keep up with the very best operated extension service programs. The small group approach paid off while attempts to get large groups together was not as successful. The use of local leaders to serve as demonstrators tends to keep the program intact and moving forward, while the agent spends more time with other persons with lesser experience. This procedure makes it possible for us to reach more people. Also it helps to steer the extension in this urban area.

I would like to say that our success here in this area has been due to these facts:

1. Team work in our local office. Our efforts in working toward the development of one extension program.
2. Good working relationship with our local leaders, officials, and governing bodies. It is the feeling that our extension program exists for the benefit of all people, urban, rural, and city as well, and not just for any one segment.

sale in Newport News. He received twenty-eight cents per pound for his three hogs. They weighed 610 pounds. Collis Phillips is from a full time farm family in the Bethel District of York County. The main crop grown on their farm is vegetables.

Robert Roberts, a 4-H Club Member from the same community, a second year college student at Virginia State College, Norfolk Division, also showed two barrows which were runner ups in the single class. He received twenty cents per pound for his hogs. In fact, Roberts came home from college, showed his hogs, took part in the judging team which won first place, sold his hogs, picked up his check, and headed back to college. He still has a pig chain sow, which brought a litter of ten pigs recently. Roberts uses the money from his pig project to help out with his college expenses.

The idea of the pig chain is to create interest in 4-H club work, and to help to bring in and develop better breeds of hogs, and to decrease the practice of inbreeding.

Shipyards gave a \$50 Savings Bond and a \$25 Savings Bond to two boys and a \$25 Savings Bond to a 4-H club girl, which the home agent will report on. The boys were sons of shipyard workers who grow swine to help supplement their income.

The boys were, Fred Edwards, Newport News 4-H Club Member, whose father is a rigger in the shipyard. Fred assumes the role of caring for the products in offspring from ten brood sows. The sows farrowed two litters of pigs again this year. They delivered a total of 141 pigs of that number; Fred finished out for market over eighty-four head. Then showed a ton litter for his 4-H club project. His litter project weighed 1950 pounds. It was based upon this record that Fred Edwards was selected as the top boy in swine production again in 1961.

Larry Slade, a Member of the Cary's Chapel 4-H Club, whose father works in the shipyard, received a \$25 Savings Bond. Slade showed and sold the reserve grand champion single spotted poland shine gilt. She weighed 205 pounds and sold for twenty-eight cents per pound to Joel E. Harrell. Slade's pig chain sow farrowed eight pigs in her second litter. He plans to exhibit three hogs in the show and sale at Holland, Virginia the summer of 1962.

Collis Phillips, also a 4-H Club Member from Cary's Chapel, exhibited the grand champion pen of three hogs at the fall show and

**4-H CLUB WORK:**

Our 4-H club program progresses each year in the same manner. After getting our program in operation each year, we are assisted by good leaders and the parents of 4-H club members in seeing that our program is kept alive; we have thirteen 4-H clubs throughout this area with several more in process. With an active membership of over 260 boys, we have over 1000 different 4-H projects in operation, and about seventy-five per cent of the boys have completed their work. The major projects this year were swine, home grounds beautification, rodent control, vegetable gardening, wildlife, crops, and conservation of natural resources with emphasis placed on community projects.

Forty-six 4-H club members carried swine for projects, they had over 321 head of hogs in the project; thirty-eight completed with 291 head of hogs all totaled; sixty-nine were sold at the fall hog show and sale in Newport News. Twenty-two members exhibited the hogs and took part in the judging contest. They sold the hogs to Joel E. Harrell and Sons, Suffolk, Virginia, Gwaltney Packing Company, Inc., and Smithfield Packing Company, Smithfield, Virginia. They received from eighteen to twenty-eight cents per pound for their hogs.

Again this year, we selected the three top 4-H club boys in swine projects to ask awards for. The President of Newport News

of all who might be working with the same group or groups of people. At times the agent assist in conducting meetings to get social service information to people.

The health departments depend upon our service to supply them with such information as rodent, insect and pest control. This type of cooperation makes for better working relationship of all agencies in the area.

We have to also give credit to the churches, because four of our best 4-H clubs meet from time to time in these churches.

Three doctors and proprietor of a restaurant in the building next door to us helps to sponsor our sweet potato festival each year. They made the awards money available and also purchased sweet potatoes for premium prices.

The officials of the water commission have made available some section of their water shed land for our 4-H club wildlife and conservation program and conservation projects.

Each year the Daily Press and super markets help us with our livestock program, while three out-of-town meat picking companies always buy our 4-H club hogs for a few cents per pound above market price.

and reaches out of the buildings in which they work.

We take pride each year in supplying all janitors and building custodians with information necessary to keep under control such pests in the buildings which they work, as rats, mice, roaches, etc. Each year we have to commend the janitors for a job well done.

#### COOPERATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES:

This is a major concern of ours as Extension Agents, here in this section our working with Health Departments, school officials, city councils, and board of supervisors, has become a pattern which every one concerned look to with pride.

Each month we send copies of our reports to three different organizations, the City Council of Hampton and Newport News, and the Board of Supervisors of York County.

There are times when members of these bodies call upon our office for direct information relating to problems pertaining to the welfare of the entire area. We always find it convenient to cooperate with any request. They all cooperate with our requests.

School officials and teachers call upon our office from time to time for resource information, which comes in handy in helping them to solve problems confronting them in the school program.

The social service bureau, also call upon us for information which serves its organization, and makes for common understanding

roofs, screen in the front or back porch, cover the house, add porches, paint the entire house, add storage space and build walkways, 520 families improved their lawns, flowers, and shrubbery, fifteen families improved their water supply, while some thirty to thirty-five families who cooperated with the program built new homes.

#### INSECT AND PEST CONTROL:

Insects and pests control is a major activity for our group here on the Peninsula. We might state here that the type of information which we receive weekly from our experiment station makes it possible for us to pinpoint problems of insects and pests. The weekly news letter always reaches us just in time to answer the questions which were asked just the day before. We take this information and simplify and pass it on to the people who are in need of it. We have received comments from officials from all the units of the Peninsula Governing Bodies expressing their appreciation to us for our efforts in helping to control insects and pests here in this section. Through the season when the pests appear, demonstrations on controlling the pests and insects are conducted with small groups present. We have over sixty-five local leaders who take part in the effort of keeping under control these pests; such as, rats, mice, molds, plant insects and internal parasites in swine. Twenty-three of these leaders reported that they received raises in salary as a result of the job they have done. The idea is to keep rats, mice,

offer extra income for those who produce them. At first, it seemed to have posed a problem but after they all got started under the State regulations to cook swill, they were able to see the value of decreasing the possibility of several dreaded diseases, plus the fact that the swine consumed the cooked swill better than they did ~~swill~~; it also, made for a better balance ration to feed swine, and it could be handled better after it was cooked.

Now that part of the program has proved quite successful. The swine producers got better prices this year than they did as a whole last year. It has been the agent's job to assist with management practices in general and those of selecting breed, insects, parasites and disease control, assist us with our home improvement program. He gave us the latest scientific information from the State Experiment Station. We still have some forty-five persons feeding swill to hogs.

These producers have over 150 brood sows, this year they reported just ~~over~~ over 400 deliveries of over 2500 pigs, they have marketed over 3000 head during the year; most of them received from seventeen cents to nineteen cents per pound live weight year round. Those who managed well reported that they made enough to still stay in business. Most of their success came because they get their family meat supply, and were able to sell their neighbors their meat supply for a margin of profit better than selling on the regular market. Also, they all are regular employed at some other job, while they are growing the hogs. As a result of our information we had fifty families to drain their home sites, many had to make major repairs, such as adding a

**VEGETABLE PRODUCTION:**

The agent would like to point out further project activity, in market and home garden. The District and State Agents assisted the local farm agent in getting specialist help from the experiment station to give special help in horticulture information. As a result of their service, we point with pride to the successful effort made in producing market and home gardens. Twenty-eight part-time producers reported having enough vegetables to feed their families and twice per week they took vegetables to their jobs to sell to persons who did not produce gardens because they lived in the city housing projects where there were no room and space for gardens. The income they received helped to supplement their salaries to \$20 per week more; meaning that a person with a \$60 per week take home pay had an \$80 per week take home pay.

The same information coming through the State Supervisory Staff and the specialist helped the agent to assist over 1100 persons who produced gardens for home use. These gardens were worth in cash over \$500 to each of these producers. These families had vegetables in their gardens at least eight months in the year; then they processed enough to have for the rest of the year. Specialist helped us to help these 1100 gardeners become \$5,500 better off.

**LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION:**

Swine production is our leading livestock enterprise. This is true mainly because of the opportunity for feeding swill, also it

## PROJECT ACTIVITY:

The methods of getting over Extension Teaching vary as personality vary. The method and result demonstration are still strong going approaches. "Seeing is believing." However, with the large territory and number of people to have to serve, leadership training is one of our best approaches to reaching and serving more people.

In cases where we can get a leader to serve also as a demonstrator, the teaching program becomes more affective. This is particular true in communities where we are carrying 4-H club work jointly. The adult will serve as leaders for the 4-H club work, and in many cases, if an adult is following the program properly, they will get behind the 4-H club work and push it harder than they will their program.

At this point, I might mention a shipyard worker who took the lead in seeing that his boy always had a good start with his 4-H club project, then offered to push his neighbor's boys. When he went out to find a good breed of hogs to start his boy in a swine project, he located some good pigs for other 4-H club boys. This shipyard worker would also invite other community 4-H clubs to come to his swine reservation to observe how he was leading his community boys as well as his own son in 4-H club work.

**PROGRAM PROJECTION:**

In launching a program, there is no better way than to take people where they are and try to aid them to a desirable and satisfactory goal.

Two Hundred and Eighty days were spent by the agent in carrying out the Extension Service Program. Between 20,000 miles were traveled by the agent in 1961 in Hampton, Newport News Cities and York County. Over 700 farm and home visits were made. Over 2,000 contacts were made by telephone and through office calls. Approximately 4,500 contacts were made directly or indirectly. Seventy-five or more volunteer unpaid leaders assisted with the Extension Service Program. We find it necessary to change and shift our effort as the situation changes. We are also convinced that a new approach is in order. The fact that the area we serve is one of mostly urban and city, bring about an entirely new situation. However, there is very little difference in the way the people respond to the program. We have county people coming to the town and the town people leaving for the urban area. As each group change places there are new problems coming.

People moving in from rural areas bring their problems with them. People who leave the city area for the rural or urban areas, and who have never lived in a rural area before, soon adjust to the transition. Because of their age, experiences, and retiring ideas, they adjust more easily than the newcomer to the city.

While other part-time workers reported that they have lights on their tractors so that they can plow at night. I recall eight shiggard workers who operated 10-15 or 20 acre farms; they did most of their work late in the afternoon, at night, and some on Sundays. The most successful one reported that he had to plant 15 to 20 acres of corn by night and cultivate it late in the afternoon and on Sunday. These are the people throughout this area, who are making the best living, and are producing more for their families.

At this point, the employer and employee see the advantage and importance of both the part-time farm job and the job off the farm. More and more people are attempting to do this kind of operation. In many cases this calls for night meetings for the agent, and to object the program in such a way to assist these people who work under this type of arrangement. County and City Officials in this area endorse very highly any effort the agents put forth to assist with that part of the program.

High land value is another factor which keeps the small operator on the fence. If he sells his land and moves to town, it is only a matter of time before he will end up in the same old economic situation which confronts him when he was a full time operator, in a low income bracket. So they act wise and keep their land, and do part-time farming.

**THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION:**

The dual system of employment on an off farm is very necessary if small farmers are to survive. The complex economic situation which most of our people find themselves makes it necessary for Extension Agents to always be equipped to help all the people with the many problems facing them in these trying times.

We can point out several hundred concrete examples in our area where the employers are cooperating with the employee in letting them start work on a job early in the morning, so that the employee make a go of his part time farm, by so doing they can work shorter hours for less money. During some seasons, especially planting and harvesting time, this close cooperation is very reassuring.

In most sections of this area, there are some 700 or more people working such rotating shifts, and the success thus far, has been because of the manner in which both employer and employee have cooperated; this is a growing situation. They both profit by using this method.

Employees have stated that they work over-time in many cases in order to get off earlier than at other times so as to have some daylight during certain seasons for farm work. There are also some split shifts, on and off days so worked out that the part-time farmers are allowed to work one day on the job and the other on the small farm. This arrangement has been very satisfactory.

chances with what they plan to do with an agricultural enterprise or any effort to go forward. They do not guess anymore, they ask for facts. This condition demands that the agent keep up to date with all scientific information. We have on an average of twenty-five to thirty-five calls per week from people who lives in the city area, who at one time lived on farms. They are mostly concerned with the problems of insect, pest, rodent, control, flowers, shrubbery, trees, soils, grass, and marketing. Many of them still own their farm land, from which they came. They could not make a go on the farm without a supplement, to their income sufficient to support their families; therefore, they were forced to leave the farms.

The part-time farmer who spends about fifty per cent of his time working off the farm enjoys a more wholesome livelihood because of the chance which he has to work in industry. Their standard of living is higher than that of the full time farmers in general; also, that of those in the same group who spends full time on a job in the city. These part time families have most of the comforts of life, such as, radio, television, telephone, running water, autos, and good roads. More recreation outlets, better schools and churches, and more leisure time to spend with their families. They are experiencing a new life.

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Lower Peninsula Area of Virginia is located Southeast of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, surrounded as described here by the James and York River, and the Body of Water, Hampton Roads, and Chesapeake Bay, some forty miles in length and about twenty-five miles in width. This area is very thickly populated and is growing steady all the time with industrial sites developing throughout its entirety. Each year some industries come in which makes for a very prosperous out look.

Most of the people who have migrated to this section are from some rural areas, who farmed at one time. This section still serves the people in a very desirable way; in that, they can work in industry and still do part time farming. We, who are employed by Extension Service, are placed in a position of helping to supply the people with valuable information. We still have over 3200 part time farm families, who grow gardens, some crops, livestock, and fruit and vegetables. We who have been associated with the Agriculture Program for a period of time can realize the different in demands of the part time industrial farmers and that of the full time farmers twenty or more years ago.

With the coming of all the modern devices and machinery, people need more scientific information about agriculture outlooks, and just what is taking place today. People of this day do not take

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**ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT**

**COUNTY  
EXTENSION  
WORK**

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

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F. F. Thomas

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Farm Agent

**Agent**

**Title**

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**Assistant Agent**

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**Assistant Agent**

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**Assistant Agent**



**1961**

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Peninsula Area

**County**