

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

### *Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

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1959

Charles City & New Kent

**County**

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### INTRODUCTION

Since I came to Charles City and New Kent Counties on April 1, 1959, I feel that I have acquired a reasonably good knowledge of the counties and of the people therein. After two months here I was convinced that our greatest needs, as far as the Extension Service was concerned, were in the fields of public relations, on a county level, and county program development. I shall attempt to point out what has been done in these fields later in this report.

This report may be somewhat irregular in both form and content and possibly not as complete as is desirable; however, the county agent from the period December 1, 1958, to April 1, 1959, left no annual report or summary of activities other than his monthly statistical report. Therefore, I would like for this annual report of 1959 extension activities to be considered with these facts in mind.

Following the retired agent's 1959 Plan of Work, I shall attempt to point out the major extension activities from December 1, 1958 to April 1, 1959. From April 1, 1959, I shall use my monthly reports to complete this report of 1959 extension activities in Charles City and New Kent Counties.

A. AGRONOMY

1. Lime

The soil testing program has been continued this year with a slight increase in the number of samples being sent to the soil testing station at V.P.I.

2. Fertilizer

Farmers were kept up-to-date on the latest fertilizer recommendations. A copy of Bulletin 183, Fertilizer Recommendations for Virginia, was sent to each farmer when returning soil testing results and lime recommendations.

3. Crops

a. 100 Bushel Corn Club

The corn club was continued in 1959 with 41 members. Sixty percent of the members made 100 bushels per acre or more, even though moisture conditions were very unfavorable. The highest yield was 125.96 bushels per acre, and the average yield of all members was 104.5 bushels per acre. Cost accounting was offered to members, but no members were sufficiently interested to accept this service.

b. Soybeans

Growers were given information by newsletter as to recommended varieties, new varieties and test varieties.

c. Small Grains (Wheat, Barley Oats)

Growers were furnished information on recommended varieties, fertilization and planting dates.

d. Sorghum

No work was done with sorghum except on individual requests.

4. Pastures

No apparent effort or progress was made in this field.

5. Truck Crops

A general vegetable growers meeting was held on January 27, 1959. A Vernon Watts, Associate Extension Horticulturist, was present and discussed most phases of vegetable production in this area. On July 15, A. Vernon Watts returned to the county and, with the agent, visited most of our truck farmers, discussing various problems which they had at that time.

6. Weed Control

The weed control program has been directed toward Johnson grass. Johnson grass is a serious problem on many farms and the problem is recognized by many farmers. A Johnson grass result demonstration was conducted in Charles City County in 1959 by A. H. Kates, Extension Weed Specialist. The control resulting from the use of one chemical looks promising. Mr. Kates has worked in the county several days

in the past year. The agent spent some time collecting yield data on soybeans to help point out the effects of Johnson grass infestation.

7. Insect Control

No meetings were held as outlined in the Plan of Work. Considerable work was done on individual request; especially in connection with corn earworm control on soybeans in August.

B. LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

(Note) A general livestock meeting was held on February 11 with the following specialists present:

C. C. Mast, Extension Animal Husbandman (Beef Cattle)  
G. A. Allen, Jr., Extension Animal Husbandman, (Sheep)  
Rolie M. Godsey, Associate Extension Animal Husbandman (Hogs)

Most phases of production of the three classes of livestock were discussed with emphasis being placed on management in each case. This meeting will not be discussed under the following livestock headings, but will be referred to from time to time.

1. Beef Cattle

a. Herd Improvement

Refer to note under B. No further progress was made on this phase of the program.

b. Herd Management

Refer to note under B. Other effort made in this area was on an individual request basis.

c. Steer Feeding

Refer to note under B. No further progress was made.

d. Marketing

Thirty-five calves were sold through the Richmond Feeder Calf Sale. Thirteen steers were sold in the fall Fat Cattle Sale.

2. Hogs

Refer to note under B. All other work was done as assistance on an individual request basis.

3. Sheep

Refer to note under B. No further progress was made.

4. Poultry

All poultry work was done with individual poultrymen. The monthly publication, Poultry Pellets, prepared at V.P.I., has been sent to all poultrymen each month. In addition, considerable <sup>work</sup> was done on individual request.

C. FARM MANAGEMENT AND COST ACCOUNTING

1. A number of individual farmers have been assisted with farm management problems upon request.
2. The retired agent did an excellent job of keeping farmers supplied with the latest outlook information and tips on farm management by the use of regular newsletters.
3. No outstanding progress was made with cost accounts and records. K. E. Loope, Associate Extension Agricultural Economist, worked with one farmer two days in 1959 on cost

accounts. One farmer is using the V.P.I. Electronic Farm Record Program. This program was offered to all 100 Bushel Corn Club members, but very little interest was shown.

D. FORESTRY

No progress was made with the forestry program in 1959. All work was done on an individual basis.

E. AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The agents have worked with both of these agencies in every possible way to assist in carrying out the programs and in helping farmers to receive the greatest possible benefit from these programs.

F. FOUR-H CLUBS

Since April 1, 1959, four 4-H clubs have been organized in Charles City County. These are all community clubs made up of both boys and girls. Total enrollment in these nine clubs is 47 boys and 62 girls. In addition, New Kent County has one all-girl club which was organized before April 1. This club has 18 girls on roll, and the leaders thought that it would be difficult for a larger number to meet in a home. Therefore, the boys in this community were shifted to another club, and this club was not reorganized. None of these clubs or club members will be shown on this agent's

statistical report, since they all came about after April 1, 1959.

G. JAMESTOWN 4-H CAMP

Jamestown 4-H Camp is no longer carried as a project of the Charles City-New Kent County Agent.

H. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

A Charles City-New Kent County Extension Program Development meeting was held on June 26, 1959. The Twenty-member Program Planning Committee represented all major agricultural, homemaking, and civic interests in the counties. Maynard C. Heckel, Extension Training Specialist, conducted the meeting. Also, assisting were James B. Norment and Mrs. Betty K. Kyle, District Agents. Background information and summaries of the present situation were presented by the county agent and home demonstration agent. A very good discussion of our basic areas of need followed. One member of the committee suggested that committees be formed to study in detail the needs in some of these areas and possible actions for the solution of some of these problems. The committee felt that the following areas needed immediate attention: (1) Forestry, (2) Youth, Development, (3) Agronomy, (4) Home and Community Beautification. Since that time, a Home and Community Beautification Committee has been organized and is now functioning. The 4-H program

development which grew out of the meeting has been discussed in section F. No action has been taken toward the development of forestry and agronomy committees due to the inappropriateness of the summer and fall season for getting farmers to attend meetings. It is anticipated that these areas can be developed early in 1960.

I. PUBLIC RELATIONS

It is felt that the preparation for, and execution of, the above mentioned program development meeting has been the most gratifying effort made in the field of public relations. Much effort has also been made through individual contacts to establish a basic understanding of the functions and objectives of the Extension Service.

J. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Agricultural Engineering

Several farmers were helped with farm building problems.

V.P.I. farm building plans were provided on request.

2. Ground Hog Control

No program was carried out in this area; however, considerable assistance was given on an individual basis.

3. Horticulture

No work was done with peach growers as indicated in the Plan of Work. A considerable number of calls were

made and assistance given with diseases, insects, and cultural problems of ornamentals.

K. PUBLICITY

The following media were used:

1. Circular letters.
2. Meetings for instructions and planning.
3. Result demonstrations.
4. Tours.
5. News items.

Radio facilities were not available to the agent.

CONCLUSION

Not having served as county agent in Charles City and New Kent Counties for the entire year, it is rather difficult to give a full report of extension activities for the year. I am quite sure that the accomplishments have not been shown adequately in this report.

Having been trained in a county where almost all extension accomplishments came about as the results of extension programs, the situation here has been somewhat confusing; however, in the many areas of this report where I have noted "no progress in this phase of the program" it has not been my intention to imply that the retired agent lacked accomplishment in these areas, for many of his accomplishments came as the results of his personal

contacts and respected influence upon the people in these counties and not as the results of extension programs.

In this fact lies the necessary inadequacy of this report.