

### SUMMARY

During the period from December 1, 1959 to November 30, 1960, a total of 232 days were spent conducting extension work. There were a total of 112 days devoted to adult work and 120 days to 4-H and Y. M. W. work. There were 562 farm and home visits made during this period; 999 office calls and 1, 193 telephone calls for information or assistance. There were 3,762 bulletins distributed to adults, 4-H members and older youths.

Some phase of extension work was discussed in 187 meetings with approximately 4,437 persons attending. Local leaders were responsible for conducting 46 meetings during the year.

There were a total of 12 demonstrations conducted in pastures, corn, tobacco, livestock, etc.

The adult leaders working with the clubs in the county joined in forming an association during the year which will result in better 4-H leadership.

The organized 4-H clubs in the county meet monthly and they consist of 10 school clubs and one community club. There were a total of 136 meetings held relating to 4-H club work with an attendance of 3,187. There are a total of 23 adult local leaders and six junior leaders assisting with the club program. One hundred and twenty days were spent by the local Farm Agent in 4-H club work.

The local Farm Agent met four times during the year with the young men and women groups in the county. He assisted the groups in citizenship, development, career information and youth development.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

In addition to the major activities, work was done in family garden production, individual and family health, church grounds, entrance to farm homes, farm buildings, safety, wildlife, farm record keeping, fencing, exterior repair of homes, adequate electric wiring; and, in a number of activities and problems that required the assistance of the local Farm Agent.

four instructional periods plus sixty-eight persons attending the tractor club party. An average of 10 adults attended each meeting for the 4-H tractor group.

Samuel Richard, Jr., a member of the Cumberland County 4-H tractor group, won the tractor operators contest at the Five County Fair in Farmville. He will receive an all expense paid trip to the Pennsylvania State Farm Show in January.

Eleven 4-H members entered their market hog projects at the Junior Market Hog Show and Sale in Lynchburg during August. The members won a total of \$31.00 in prize money.

Six 4-H delegates along with one local leader attended the State 4-H Short Course at Virginia State College during June. Four clubbers and one leader attended the State Wildlife and Conservation Conference during August.

Several lawn parties were held during the year. The annual 4-H picnic was held at the Prince Edward State Park during July with parents and clubbers relaxing. The 4-H club members from Sugar Fork, Hawk and Pine Grove went on an educational trip to Washington, D. C. during May of 1960.

The 4-H Council held two meetings in 1960. It worked very effectively in getting the full cooperation of all clubs in most of the county-wide activities. The Council sponsored the 4-H Club Week Activities, the 4-H Sunday Program, delegates to the State Conference, programs before P.T.A. groups and the annual 4-H club picnic.

2. Youths were given information on career opportunities.
3. Adult and Junior leaders were utilized to further the youth program.
4. Young men and women groups were assisted through discussions and information from the extension service.

#### IV. Results:

There were eleven organized 4-H clubs in the county during 1960 with a total membership of 249 youths carrying 285 projects. Fifty-eight boys and sixty-four girls completed 140 projects. The projects consisted of corn, soybeans, forestry, potatoes, home garden, poultry, swine, rabbits, home ground beautification, home improvements, safety, health, leadership, tractor maintenance, automotive care and safety, and career exploration.

A 4-H Honor Club was organized during the year for senior club members who have done outstanding work in the county's 4-H program for the past three years. Nineteen high school youths joined this club. The club did work on exploring career opportunities during the year.

Eight ~~hours~~ tours were conducted by the clubs. There were seven local community tours which involved project inspection and judging. Four-H clubbers visited the State Forest in Cumberland to observe good forestry practices and wildlife management at the State Game Farm.

Twenty-two boys were enrolled in the A-unit of the tractor maintenance project. Nineteen boys completed the unit. A total of four instructional meetings and one party was held for the tractor members. A total of 128 youths and adults attended the

Around 25 market hogs are sold each year from the farm and the family gives the credit to the fertilizer and lime used on the corn and small grain for their success in the swine enterprise. They use this corn and small grain as feed for the hogs.

We are very proud of the Foster Family and their farm. It has been a demonstration in the county for a number of years. The farm people look forward to observing operations on the Foster's farm.

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

#### I. Situation:

There are approximately 1,000 Negro youths of school age in the county and approximately one-half of these youths are between the ages of 10 and 20 years old. The county also has a large number of young men and women that need help in exploring careers and making adjustments to adult responsibility. Useful work experience, ownership and management of property, marketing, practical records and reporting achievements are very important in youth development.

#### II. Objectives:

1. To assist in providing learning opportunities and practical experience in farming, homemaking and related activity for youths.
2. To assist the organized young men and women groups in the county where needed.

#### III. Methods Used:

1. Four-H clubs were organized throughout the county to provide training for youths.

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This means bigger yields of corn from fewer acres, better pastures and hay to increase the butter fat content of milk sold on the farm, and getting the hogs ready for market between 5 and 6 months instead of 7 and 8 months. These are the things that are done on the Foster's farm by use of fertilizer to make for a profit during the farm cost-price-squeeze.

For the entire Foster Family of eight, the use of ample fertilizer on the farm has meant a better home in which to live, better farm equipment, a good demonstration for the community, a better education for the family, a good record for Social Security retirements credits and a more satisfied and comfortable living.

To mention a few of Foster's achievements on the farm since its purchase in 1933 when it would only grow broom sedge and hen nest grass at a profit—he has increased his corn yields from 15 bushels to an average of 75 bushels per acre at present. To get this increase, 800 pounds of 5-10-10 fertilizer are applied per acre with a side dressing of 40 pounds of nitrogen. Foster has increased his yields in tobacco to 1800-2000 pounds per acre from around 500 pounds in 1933. He contributes this yield to the dollars he has wisely spent in fertilizer for the farm.

On the farm there are 30 heads of milk cows which brings in around \$225.00 monthly from the Grade C milk sold. The ladino-orchard grass pastures for these animals receive an annual top dressing of 600 pounds of 2-12-12 fertilizer per acre. Without these pastures and its state of fertility it would be impossible to support the thirty heads of cows on the farm.

### WATER UNDER PRESSURE

There is still a great need for pressure water systems on the farms and in the homes in the county to make farm life and rural living more comfortable, sanitary and attractive. Pressure systems are needed to support the type of agricultural program in the county.

The local Agricultural Advisory Board on the recommendation of the local Farm Agent appointed a committee to do educational work on the value, advantages and cost of water systems under pressure in the county. The committee consists of the following persons:

Mrs. Albert Mumford  
Mrs. Walter Jenkins  
Mrs. Richard Foster  
Mr. S. H. Richard  
Mr. R. L. Soales

The work of this committee has been gratifying and very influential. As a result of the work of this committee, twenty-one families have installed part or complete water systems since the committee was organized in 1958.

### FERTILIZER PAYS MULL FOR RICHARD FOSTER

Richard Foster, a general farmer in Cumberland County, will always tell you that the key to bigger yields and larger profits on his 141 acre farm has been through the application of adequate plant food for the crop through fertilizer and lime. In explaining to his neighbors and other farmers in the county on how to stay in farming and make a go of it, Foster tells them they have to cut down on the cost per unit of production by the use of additional fertilizer.

planning these occasions. One night was set aside during all the regular farmer and 4-H club meetings as parent night or open house in order to invite the public to join in the extension program during the year.

Discussions before the different church groups, P.T.A. groups and at regular extension meetings have proved very valuable in obtaining the assistance of parents and local leaders in carrying out the county program of work. Support, interest and cooperation in the extension program have been improved greatly through these discussions with parents and teachers.

#### FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT WORK

Three families, Mr. Walter Jenkins, Mr. Richard Foster and Mr. Elwood Scott, are participating in the Farm and Home Development Program in the county. The objective of the Farm and Home Development work is to promote a more desirable farm and home unit.

All three of the families participating are using extension recommendations in carrying out their farming operations as to the use of adapted varieties, ample fertilizers and better cultural and managerial practices. On the interior of the homes, marked improvements have been noted in such areas as better family food supply, laundry and kitchen operations.

The Farm and Home Development work has been very beneficial in helping these families recognize the resources they have available to help them in accomplishing projects or goals selected to better the total farm and family unit.

Cornerstone Church members completed the layout of their cemetery with the assistance of Dr. Watson during July. Midway Church members cleared their cemetery of bushes, but they must do additional work before seeding can be done. New Hope Church cultivated cemetery area, prepared a seed bed and seeded its cemetery.

Thirty different adults were assisted in landscape work during the year.

All eleven of the locally organized 4-H clubs with a total membership of 249 received instruction in home grounds beautification work. Twenty-five 4-H members were assisted directly by the local Farm Agent in practical application of yard beautification work at their individual homes. During each community tour for 4-H members, they visited a home which had done good home grounds beautification work.

#### PUBLICITY AND PARENT EDUCATION

There were thirty-eight news articles published concerning the county extension program. The local Farm Agent appeared on twelve different church programs explaining the purpose and nature of the local extension program during 1960. The local Farm Agent met with each P.T.A. group in the county during the year.

Four schools had programs during P.T.A. meetings featuring the local Farm Agent as discussion leader in order to make for better understanding and cooperation on the part of the people and the extension agent. The local leaders were very instrumental in

purchased, one room was added to an existing house, one oil burner was installed in a flue barn, seven homes were improved with lawn plantings, one kitchen sink installed and three homes had a porch added or improved.

All of the twenty-two families are carrying out some improved practices such as more liberal application of fertilizers, use of adapted varieties, recommended pasture mixtures, improved livestock and home beautification and improvement.

At present, there are five demonstrations being conducted in agricultural production in the Cedar Fork Community. These demonstrations are in tobacco, corn and pastures.

#### LANDSCAPE WORK

Dr. W. L. Watson, Head of the Horticulture Department at Virginia State College, visited the county during July, 1960 to assist the Farm Agent in landscape projects. He has been very instrumental in helping Cumberland County improve their homes and church grounds and cemeteries.

Zion Baptist Church, New Hope Baptist Church, Midway Baptist Church and the Cornerstone Baptist Church improved their cemeteries during the year. Zion Baptist Church hired a balldeasor to clean the old cemetery area and one acre of new area. After clearing the area, the members joined hands as a group to prepare seed beds and seeded the cemetery to a permanent lawn grass according to the recommendations of the extension service. The church also built a new roadway to the cemetery.

## THE IMPROVEMENT COMMUNITY

### I. Situation:

There are twenty-two families cooperating in the Cedar Fork Community Improvement work. There are 250 acres in crop land, 85 acres in pastures and 363 acres in forest. The families cooperating in the Improvement Community program are carrying out improved practices as recommended by the Virginia Agricultural Extension Service such as more liberal application of fertilizers, recommended pasture mixtures, better cultural and managerial practices, better seed, improved livestock and home improvement.

### II. Objective:

1. To plan a program and execute the same that will result in improving agriculture and the level of living among the twenty-two families.

### III. Methods Used:

1. One of each demonstration planned for the county was held in the community.
2. Educational work was intensified on production of crops, the home, home grounds and church beautification for the community.
3. Two meetings were held in the community where all twenty-two families participated in making suggestions for activities to be carried on and an explanation of records.
4. Mrs. Aldene Trent, a local leader, is chairman of the Improvement Community.

### IV. Results:

Improvements noted and recorded include four pressure water systems installed, one new home built, one farm purchased, four families painted the interior of their homes, one tractor was

## II. Objectives:

1. To assist tobacco growers in preparing tobacco for market.
2. To assist the tobacco growers in disease control.

## III. Methods Used:

1. General suggestions regarding harvesting and curing of tobacco were given to the growers through meetings and mass media.
2. Information on sorting and grading of tobacco for market will be given to the farm families through the use of the Agricultural Advisory Board and the Agronomy Committee.
3. Current information on disease control and tobacco rotations will be publicized.

## IV. Results:

Eighteen tobacco growers were assisted with rotations and other practices designed to cut down on soil borne diseases. Farmers in the county have stated how the sorting and grading demonstrations have helped them in marketing their tobacco for a higher price. Many stated that they have received up to 20 cents per pound increase in their tobacco prices.

Thirty-seven tobacco growers attended an educational meeting on both dark flared and bright tobacco during February at the Courthouse in Cumberland. Mr. G. R. Matthews, Tobacco Specialist, presented discussions on variety selection, proper fertilization, plant bed management, disease and insect control.

Fifty-seven tobacco growers attended tobacco grading demonstrations during the year.

A. C. Mumford, Morris Langhorn and Richard Foster conducted variety and fertilizer demonstrations on tobacco.

2. Four-H club members along with adult leaders visited the State Forest to observe the forestry projects there.
3. Two organized 4-H clubs had forestry as a club project.
4. Local leaders assisted the 4-H clubs in planting demonstrations.

#### IV. Results:

J. F. Lipscomb and R. L. Seales planted a total of 30,000 pine seedlings on 35 acres of land during the year. Richard Foster, Thomas Ford, Allen Ford, R. L. Huchless, John Gilliam and Major Mosby are using a selective cuttings in harvest their timber.

Forty-nine 4-H club members planted a total of 7,600 pine seedlings. All eleven organized clubs received instruction on the value of our forests and how to care and conserve our timber.

An increased number of adults have made calls at the office to inquire about forestry practices. It is felt that the extension educational program is reaching the farm families in the county and it is beginning to create interest and action.

### KOMOCO

#### I. Situation:

Tobacco is the leading cash crop in the county and it consists of both dark flared and flue-cured tobacco. There are approximately 40 flue-cured allotments held by Negro farm families with dark flared being the major tobacco crop grown. Farmers are doing an excellent job in the fertilization and cultivation of the tobacco crop. The major problems facing the tobacco growers lie in preparation for market and disease control.

fields and a cropping system that would minimize soil erosion.

Two farm families were assisted in establishing grassed waterways. Two farmers were assisted by the Agent in setting up strips on their farm. All eleven of the locally organized 4-H clubs in the county received instruction in soil conservation and wildlife.

The permanent pasture program in the county has helped a great deal in the selection and wise use of land. According to the Farm Agent and Agronomy Committee records, there have been approximately 100 acres of permanent pastures seeded in the county during the past three years using the recommendations offered by soil tests.

### FORESTRY

#### I. Situation:

Forestry plays a large part in the lives of many farm families in Cumberland County. The problem facing the forestry enterprise is the fact that trees are being cut much faster than they are being replaced in the forest. Undesirable undergrowth and poor quality oaks are taking over many of the acres in the county.

#### II. Objectives:

1. To initiate practices to get more farmers and 4-H club members interested in forestry as a necessary and essential part of the farm program and to create interest in the conservation of forestry products for future generations.

#### III. Methods Used:

1. Discussion at general meetings and at 4-H meetings; circular letters to key farmers and farm visits were used to further the program.

idle each year and waste away by weathering. A high percentage of the farm families including youth fail to recognize the needs and advantages of protecting the soil—our great natural resource.

There are approximately 100 farms with soil and water conservation plans but the farmers neglect to follow the plans. There is a great need for educational work in the field of soil and water conservation in the county.

## II. Objectives:

1. To promote greater participation in soil and water conservation work by farm families in the county.
2. To assist farm families in establishing agronomic practices on the farm which will minimize soil erosion in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Agency in the county.

## III. Methods Used:

1. The Soil Conservation Agent and the local Farm Agent worked together very closely on setting up objectives and timely projects.
2. The local Soil Conservation Agent met with the local leaders during March and discussed soil and water conservation.
3. Timely and simple agronomic practices were emphasized instead of a total soil and water conservation plan.
4. Cost-sharing projects by the government were emphasized through the cooperation of the local A.C.P. Agency.
5. Educational work was done by the Farm Agent at meetings, farm and home visits and through local leaders.
6. A discussion was led at each of the 4-H clubs during the year on soil conservation.

## IV. Results:

Twelve different farmers used winter cover crops on fields where erosion had been a problem. These farmers had not used cover crops before. Eighteen different farmers were assisted in selecting

At least forty different farm families are either growing feeder pigs for sale or selling market hogs. During the last three years, these families have done considerable work in breeding, management and a feeding program.

Thirty-one 4-H club members were enrolled in the Swine Market Pig Project with eighteen members completing. Eleven 4-H clubbers entered their market hog in the Lynchburg Junior Market Hog Show and Sale.

Sixteen farm families are receiving a large portion of their farm income from selling manufacturing milk. These families have herds ranging from 5 milkers to 32 animals. These families have made great strides in a year round feeding program for their animals.

Mr. R. L. Huckles has a beef herd consisting of 30 animals. Allen Ford has a herd of 12 Hereford animals. Arthur Hatcher, Roger Watson, Junius Smith, Sam Booker, U. S. Booker, Willie Epps and John Woodson are growing a few beef animals.

Current marketing information and outlook publications were distributed to all of the livestock growers. Many used this material to an advantage in making management decisions for their farm.

#### SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

##### I. Situation:

The misuse of farm land continues to be a big problem in Cumberland County. Poor agronomic practices on the part of many farmers have contributed a great deal to the washing and erosion of the soil. There are a number of acres in the county which lie

## LIVESTOCK

### I. Situation:

The county farmers are becoming interested in more livestock. Livestock and livestock products are bringing in much income annually to farmers in Cumberland County. A sound program of beef and dairy cattle, swine and poultry must be based on an effective agronomy program and individual needs. Some problems are management, feed and feeding, disease control and marketing.

### II. Objectives:

1. To promote a sound livestock program utilizing desirable type animals based on an adequate agronomic program.
2. To encourage proper marketing of livestock.

### III. Methods Used:

1. Educational work was intensified on breeding, purchasing and management.
2. The Livestock Committee and the Advisory Board were very instrumental in getting current information and outlook reports to the livestock grower.
3. Educational work was accomplished on disease and parasite control.
4. Expansion of certain livestock units were encouraged.

### IV. Results:

A number of farmers are doing an excellent job in swine improvement in the county. James Hatcher purchased a pure bred Yorkshire gilt and at present he is selling Yorkshire feeder pigs in the county. Danville Langhorn has a pure bred Yorkshire boar which he is using to improve breeding in the Sunny Side area. Hatcher and Langhorn have done good work in swine pastures.

## II. Objectives:

1. To develop on each farm a pasture according to recommendations where needed.
2. To encourage farm families to top dress, graze and manage existing pastures properly.

## III. Methods Used:

1. The permanent pasture program was coordinated with the A.C.P. cost-sharing sign up period. During this period, the Farm Agent gave increased publicity on the educational phase of pastures.
2. The local A.C.P. Agent meet with leaders and approximately 30 other farmers to discuss financial help available under the government program.
3. The Agronomy Committee continued demonstrations in each district.
4. Pastures and a forage plan were discussed at six different meetings.

## IV. Results:

Thomas Ford, Sidney Randolph, Danville Langhorn, Abraham Langhorn and Richard Foster, Jr. improved hog pastures according to recommendations. R. L. Huckles seeded three acres of permanent pasture. Jasper Huckles seeded six acres of pastures under the A.C.P. cost-sharing program. A. C. Mumford and George Hatcher seeded pastures during the year. L. V. Marshall fertilized and lime three acres of pastures according to recommendations. Richard Foster top dressed sixteen acres of permanent pastures according to soil test. Willie Epps seeded three acres of permanent pasture. Ollie Robertson, George Hatcher and Morris Langhorn seeded winter pastures.

applying. Dry weather during the early summer months in the county cut the yields of corn this year but the families increasing their fertilizer application saw the benefits of additional fertilizer.

Richard Foster and Albert Mumford conducted corn demonstrations in Madison and Randolph Districts but there were not any organized meetings held at the demonstrations due to dry weather. Foster and Mumford reported that a total of 14 farmers had visited the demonstration and were very pleased at their observations.

Several families were assisted in selecting whether to sell their corn through swine or sell it as corn. They were provided with the information and the necessary assistance to make a wise decision. A better system of marketing and utilization of corn may result in increase effort on the part of farm families to improve their yields.

#### PASTURE PROBLEMS

##### I. Situations:

The need for a low cost feed and forage program in the county is one of the major problems facing the farmers when they attempt to go into livestock production. There are many idle acres and an additional number of acres presently used for other purposes that could be used to better advantage in pastures to support livestock.

Many farmers still have poor quality pastures. A number of pastures have been established with recommended mixtures; but, the farmers fail to top dress, graze and manage properly. Too few of the farmers have been utilizing the cost-sharing benefits offered under the A.C.F. program in establishing permanent pastures.

fertiliser application is one of the biggest problems or mistakes made by the corn growers in the county. This fertilizer practice has always lowered the efficiency in the county's corn production.

The farm families need additional information on selection of alternatives of how to market their corn or whether to sell it through livestock.

#### II. Objectives:

1. To encourage farmers to continue to increase the yield of corn and keep them aware of the importance of bigger yields on fewer acres.
2. To encourage farmers who are using 200 pounds of fertilizer and less per acre to increase their fertilizer application.

#### III. Methods Used:

1. Use members of the Agronomy Committee and the local Agricultural Advisory Board in disseminating information to the growers.
2. Encourage soil testing of corn land.
3. Give to the farm people current information on marketing and utilization of corn which is put out by the USDA Marketing Service, the State Department of Agriculture and Extension Publications.
4. Encourage all corn growers to use adapted seeds and recommended amounts of fertilizer.

#### IV. Results:

Thirty-six farm families took definite steps in improving their corn yields. Twenty of these families took soil samples of their corn land. Prior to this corn year, these families were using approximately 200 pounds of fertilizer per acre. All thirty-six of these families increased their fertilizer application by at least 100 pounds and fifteen of them doubled the amount they had been

## II. Objective:

1. To create interest and understanding of the value of farm record keeping and good management practices.

## III. Methods Used:

1. Four-H Club members and 4-H activities in the county were utilized to carry information on the value of farm record keeping to the adult members of the family.
2. Each family represented on the Agricultural Advisory Board was asked to learn about record keeping and assist families in their areas.
3. The local Vocational Agricultural Department and local Home Economic Department in the county taught the values of record keeping to all of their adult and young men and women groups in cooperation with the local Farm Agent.
4. The value of record keeping was taught at two general meetings in the county by the local Farm Agent.

## IV. Results:

Twelve families contacted the Farm Agent for additional help in setting up a record system for their farm during the year. Forty 4-H members assisted their families in farm record keeping. Nineteen 4-H Honor Club members had as their club project farm and home record keeping.

Through the discussion of Social Security for farm families, many families are finding a system of record keeping very valuable.

## CORN PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

### I. Situation:

Corn is the basic crop grown in the county. Every farmer grows some corn but in many cases the yields are far too low to be profitable even though they are continually increasing. Inadequate

The Board men are the County Chairmen and are responsible for keeping committees informed and active. They are also advisors to the Agent in their respective communities.

The County Advisory Board was quite helpful in carrying out our objectives in 1960. A total of 6 meetings were held during the year. One, where a review of the work for the previous year was made and plans for the coming year worked out. Some of the activities claiming their attention were the carrying out the objectives of the Agronomy Committee including corn, small grain, pastures, hay and tobacco; working with livestock and poultry committees, 4-H Club leaders and 4-H activities and the community improvement program.

#### MANAGEMENT ON THE FARM

##### I. Situation:

Farming in the county now is a fully integrated factor of the total economy. With the farmer of the county losing his individualistic characteristics and with the complexity of agriculture on the increase, it is imperative that farmers and farm families in the county learn the value of record keeping. Most of the 400 different farm operators do not keep enough records in order to weigh alternatives. Farming is a business; therefore, the farmer must learn how to appraise resources, identify problems, analyze alternatives, choose and follow the most promising course of action. This is only possible through a system of record keeping.

There is a need for more and better livestock, poultry, food and feed for the home use and more and better pastures.

The various farm agencies are not used by the farmers to the extent they should be.

In order to bring the matter more fully before the people, method and result demonstrations and field meetings were planned at which these methods of procedure were outlined; and, during meetings, comparisons were made and results pointed out. There were 12 demonstrations carried out in 1960.

#### THE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

The County Advisory Board consists of 40 members, 20 men and 20 women. The purpose of the Advisory Board is to cooperate with the County Extension Service in improving Agriculture and Home Economics and in raising the standards of living among the people of the county.

The Board is made up of representatives from the different communities, both men and women, wherever extension work is being carried on and such other citizens of the county as may be instrumental in improving and promoting better county conditions as a whole.

The function of this Board is to plan and promote county-wide programs in agriculture and homemaking and to put into effect certain activities delegated to them by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Agent seeks the advice of this Board in determining, planning and carrying through his official duties.

there are few plants in the county, many Cumberland residents are employed in plants in Fairville, Richmond and other nearby places.

There is a total of 977 farms in the county as compared to around 1800 ten years ago. There are approximately 184,320 acres in the county of which 64.8 percent or 119,410 acres are in farms. In 1950, 130,948 acres were in farms. The average size of farms in 1954 was 122.2 as compared to 124.3 in 1950. The value of land and buildings average per farm in 1954 was \$7731.00 as compared to \$5012.00 in 1950. The average per acre dollar in 1954 was \$62.38 against \$39.13 in 1950. The 1954 census indicated that there are 491 non-white farm operators in the county. The total population in Cumberland County is 7,250.

This means to me that there are year after year less farm operators and less farms of greater size but a much greater production of crops. This is partly due to the use of better cultural and managerial practices by those who stay on the farms; and, as the older people pass on, the younger people are moving from the farms and seeking work elsewhere.

Indications are based on surveys, observations and conferences that there has been and is at present a misuse and wastage of natural resources. The soil is poor and shows a need for improved soil building and conservation practices. There is, however, an upward trend towards better land use and better cultural and managerial practices. There is not any predominant soil type which may be used to characterize the county. There is a wide variation in soil type.

### TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Cumberland County is in the Piedmont section of the state, comprising 293 square miles. It is bordered on the North by Fluvanna and Goochland Counties; on the East by Powhatan and Amelia Counties; on the South by Prince Edward County and on the West by Buckingham County.

Agriculture is the county's chief industry and tobacco is the leading cash crop. There is growing emphasis on livestock, poultry and dairy products which together now produce greater farm income than field crops. The last few years have seen a great increase in farm fish ponds, although farming is the backbone of Cumberland's economy. Nearly half of all farms are part-time or residential and 65 percent of the operators reported that income from other sources exceeds sale of farm products.

Two-thirds of the total area is forested. Cumberland has been among the leading pulpwood producing counties in recent years; and, sales of standing timber, pulpwood, lumber and other forest products bring good returns to Cumberland farmers. Mineral resources include a bituminous grade of coal which is not produced commercially, some clay and granite rock.

Cumberland's manufactured products include lumber, wooden tool handles, mill work, flour and other grain mill products. Although

1960  
ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
OF  
COUNTY EXTENSION WORK  
VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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James C. Ayres  
Local Farm Agent

*ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT*

**COUNTY  
EXTENSION  
WORK**

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

James C. Ayres  
**Name**

Local Farm Agent      **Agent**  
**Title**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Assistant Agent**

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**Assistant Agent**

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**Assistant Agent**



**1960**

Cumberland  
**County**