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direction of increasing yields, better quality products, produced at lowest cost possible.

Emphasis will be continued on the Know, Use and Manage Soils Program. Tours, meetings and publicity will be means of informing land owners of the importance of better soil management.

Improved practices, seed varieties, the latest research information, importance of a well balanced soil fertility program with the use of lime and fertilizer and sound economic practices will be the major points considered in working with farmers to improve their many projects.

#### VII. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The cooperation with other organizations and local agencies has been excellent. All agricultural workers seem to be anxious to pull together as a team. We expect this condition to continue and improve. A major part of our work is with the Vocational Agricultural Departments, ASC, SCS, Virginia Forest Service, FHA, and Farm Organizations, along with the Danville, Chatham and Gretna Chambers of Commerce, Ruritan Clubs, Garden Clubs and other organized groups such as press and radio stations.

We also want to acknowledge with thanks the assistance given by the following Extension personnel located at VPI:

The county extension personnel is of the opinion that this year as a whole has been a profitable one and that a very satisfactory job has been done in taking the extension program to the county people. As a result, farmers are filing more requests for assistance, more telephone calls and office calls are being received.

In conducting the program for the year, the county agents office lists 1,708 farm and home visits; 1,003 office calls, 647 telephone calls; prepared 196 news articles; made 837 radio broadcasts; distributed 11,430 bulletins and circulars; conducted 5 adult result demonstrations; held or participated in 268 adult meetings with 14,046 farmers attending; 569 local 4-H club meetings were held with a total of 17,834 people present. Approximately 1,000 soil samples were handled and recommendations made.

#### VI. OUTLOOK

The crop outlook for 1960 should be brighter due to a poor growing season experienced by county farmers in 1959. The season was alternated between heavy rains, dry and hot spells. As a result, the yields were cut for all small grain, tobacco and wheat. Also, livestock products, especially eggs, beef and pork prices hit a low figure.

It is hoped that all of these conditions will be somewhat improved by next year.

The Extension Staff will continue to emphasize programs that the commodity committees feel are important. Efforts are always in a

Real progress was made in a number of acres of alfalfa seeded during the year with emphasis on per acre yield. The five year objective is 10,000 acres and a 4 ton average yield.

Interest in Aromatic tobacco production was evident by the doubling of the number of farmers producing the crop this year. Thirty-two producers produced a total of 10,588 lbs. which sold for a total of \$8,186.19. This was another year that the season was not favorable for the production of a good crop of tobacco. This includes both Aromatic tobacco and flue-cured tobacco.

As a whole, a very satisfactory crop year was experienced except for corn. From all indications, this will be the poorest yield and the poorest quality experienced by county farmers for many years. This near failure was due to the very unusual climatic conditions during May, June and early July which was very dry and extremely hot.

A new program called, Know, Use and Manage the County Soils was launched early in 1959 with very able assistance of the VPI Agronomy Department and its soil specialists. The agricultural leaders, the fertilizer representatives and civic and business leaders assisted with the introduction of the program. Tours and fields meetings were held. Local merchants and business firms helped publicize and urge farmers to take advantage of the soil testing program. It is felt that this program will be very valuable in teaching farmers how to select and put each acre to its best use. This program will be continued in 1960 at an accelerated pace.

Office training, serving as program chairman, giving demonstrations, serving on a judging team, or helping another club or member by serving as a Junior Leader all play a part in developing the total boy and girl. Such activities place him with the present time, not in the past. And with the changes that are taking place in our labor force today, and no doubt will continue for years to come, the boy and girl of 1959 has to stay abreast of the time. Four-H is another channel that boys and girls have available to make them more capable and competent individual of tomorrow.

#### V. EVALUATION OF YEARS WORK

Major portion of the county extension program is planned each year by the Agricultural Advisory Board made up of major commodity committees. Goals have been set up for a five year period and at the beginning of each year the committee reviews their accomplishments and strengthen the program through suggestions to the Extension Agents for projects to place main emphasis on for the coming year. These suggestions are used by the Extension Agents to make up the Annual Plan of Work.

All phases of the Extension Program was emphasized by the County Extension Personnel throughout the year. It is felt that real progress was made on many of the objectives set up and the long-time objectives will be continued in the future program and plans of work. The 4-H club enrollment for 1959 was 2,366 members. The 4-H club program is a broad one with increasing participation in most of the program activities.

Most of these projects involve the 4-H member himself thus helping him to develop better living habits that will be natural for the development of the total boy or girl. The extension staff, working cooperatively with the educators in the county, the parents and the 4-H club members have realized that there is a definite need for such training. The increased membership proved that club members are willing and want to participate in the program also.

Extension is trying desperately to stay abreast of the times and not remain stagnant at anytime. This does not in anyway mean that the projects carried 10 years ago are not of importance. For the approximate 50 members showing dairy and beef animals annually are certainly an important project, as well as the 79 boys taking production crops this year. The camp programs that are offered today are also important for the 190 members who attend a Junior or Senior Camp of their choice. Even with more competition from other organizations, more and more boys and girls are annually taking part in this program.

Needless to say, the total extension program is involved in working with 4-H boys and girls. Through the group and individual home projects work, basic information can be gotten to the members. With the emphasis placed on parent-club member relations, these materials in the form of leaflets, bulletins, etc. are used by the family as well as the club member; thus the entire family benefits.

The 4-H club meetings centered around the club member is a definite way of teaching leadership abilities, citizenship and giving the member an opportunity to develop mentally, physically and socially.

## 4-H AS SEEN IN 1959

The 4-H picture in Pittsylvania County in 1959 is quite different than it was 10 years ago. This typical agricultural county, which gets most of its farm income from tobacco has more than tripled the number of 4-H club members in this span. Four-H is known in all sections of the county. Teacher sponsors, adult and junior leaders and many of the county businessmen are making the program more promising each year.

Production crops 10 years ago were the main projects conducted by 4-H members. Though these are still an important part of the club program, such projects as Entomology, Forestry Appreciation, Safety, and Wildlife have come into the picture. Other new projects such as Soils, Automotive Care and Safety and Junior Leadership will play a most important part in the lives of the 1959-60 club member.

Let us reminisce for a period to see just what part extension has played in developing the present 4-H program.

Four-H is now conducted primarily in the schools of the county with four community clubs meeting outside the school. The 90 organized clubs have a total membership of 2,366 members. The group projects that are selected by the County Council each year play a most important part in conducting the county program. The group project selected on the basic needs of the individual club members ties in with the classroom work; thus 4-H meetings encourage good work in the total school program as well as in the project itself. During the past years such group projects as Health, Personal Improvement, Electricity and Home Grounds Beautification have been selected.

programs were Junior and Adult leaders, the Wildlife and Fisheries State Agency and VPI Agricultural Economics Department. The camps offer excellent training for all age groups. With the exception of Conservtion Camp all other camps have excellent participation. More men will be used another year as adult leaders. It was noted that Mr. Harold Brown played a most important role this year at the Junior Camp.

County Council and Honor Club - Both of these groups have continued to function with the Honor Club taking the lead. The county council once again has assisted with selecting the county-wide project, and worked cooperatively with the Honor Club to conduct the Share-the-Fun Program. The Honor Club has met four times during the year. They have worked cooperatively on several money making projects, having made over \$130.00 during the year. Two tours to the Atlantic Rural Exposition and a two day tour of Washington, D. C. were conducted. The members have sponsored, planned and participated in the 4-H Achievement Program, Share-the-Fun Program and the Annual All Star-Honor Club Banquet with initiation for new members. The group has presented radio programs, written news articles periodically, planned floats and exhibits during certain emphasis periods and have generally been very active. Similar activities will beplanned with the club for another year with a more balance meeting including business, demonstrations or speaker and organized recreation.

exceptionally good with embers entering in all departments.

Twenty-three clubs won the ten dollar award for entering 12 or more different exhibits. Adult leaders from the community clubs and from three in-school clubs namely, Coates, Mt. Hermon and Brosville assisted with the exhibits. Next year, plans are to have leaders assist with all in school exhibits with a schedule set up for each club to enter their exhibits.

Dairy Show - Three boys showed five Guernseys at the Atlantic Exposition, making up a District herd. Although top placings were not won this year, all the boys plan to go back another year. All of the boys' parents were at the Saturday show. The participation at this show proved to be most educational for both the boy and his parents.

Some 35 dairy and beef animals were shown at the Danville Fair. Willie Craddock received the trophy for the best individual shown. Although the numbers were down, better quality was noted by the judge, Dr. V. L. Baldwin, Associate Extension Dairy Specialist, who has judged the show for several years. Assistance was given by the agents with selection, grooming and fitting.

4-H Camp - Four camps were offered this year. One hundred and sixty-six 4-H'ers and leaders attended the Junior camp at Holiday Lake Senior Camp, four (4) attended the Holiday Lake Senior Camp, one (1) attended the Conservation Camp, and 18 adult leaders and members attended the Senior Camp Farrar. Mr. J. F. Blair served as Camp Manager at Camp Farrar. Assistance for conducting the camp

Share-the-Fun Program - 4-H Members from all parts of the county came to the county-wide Share-the-Fun Program.

Eliminations, limited to two acts from each club, were selected for the final show. Sponsored by the Honor Club, the show was one of the highlights of the years program. As a result of the show, a regular 15 minute radio program was scheduled called the Pittsylvania County 4-H hour. The program was broadcast each Saturday at 11:05 A. M. The members from practically every school in the county participated in the Saturday Program from March 14 through August 22. Many talented 4-H'ers have been asked to take part on other civic and social clubs as a result of the Share-the-Fun and the radio programs. Martha Haynes represented the county in the State Share-the-Fun Program.

Baby Beef Show and Sale - The Annual Baby Beef Show and Sale was held on April 6 with 17 entries. This was the first year that Pittsylvania County had a show alone. The Show was thought most successful with the Grand Champion bringing \$ .55 and the Reserve Champion - \$ .40. The overall average was \$ .34.8 per pound. The Danville Chamber of Commerce was sponsor of the show again. The Angus and Hereford Associations and certain other individuals also offered awards. The animals were all purchased locally by chain stores or restaurants. Type and quality selections of the individual and a better feeding program will be worked on another year.

Fair Participation - A "quality exhibit" was the key word emphasized for all members participating in the Danville Fair. Interest was

19,500 seedlings last year. More emphasis will be placed on selection of site and method of planting another year. There is a definite need for a tree conservation program in the county as over fifty-five per cent of the land is in woodland.

Contests - Judging and demonstrational contests interest many of the Senior Club members yearly. However, due to competing spring activities, developing a suitable time for training is becoming more and more of a problem. Entries were again made in livestock, land appreciation, egg grading, forestry, public speaking, electricity, home grounds beautification, tractor and livestock conservation. All members received training in the county prior to the District Contest. Charlie Moshank placed first in the District Tractor Contest and third in the State Contest. Adeline Blair and June Fowler placed second and fourth in the egg grading contest, respectively in the District. Due to an award to Adeline Blair to attend at Poultry Conference at Kansas City by entering a Poultry Achievement Record in State Competition, the state team was ineligible to compete. The livestock team placed first in the District with Frank Robertson as top individual, but unfortunately the team was unlucky in the State Contest. Edward Bennett placed first in forestry with Shirley Barrie, Steve Hunt, and Donald McKinnay placing second in Livestock Conservation, Electricity and Public Speaking, respectively. Nine boys attended the State Short Course as a result of their participation and winnings.

effective and beneficial ways of motivating home projects was by having one of the monthly meetings devoted to exhibiting home projects. This included all projects except dairy and livestock projects. The exhibits were judged and ribbons awarded according to their merits. Quality of the exhibits was stressed in all cases. Exhibiting also promoted demonstrational abilities as each individual was given the opportunity to tell something about the exhibit that was prepared.

Tractor Maintenance - The tractor program was conducted in the Danville area this year with only one meeting being held in Gretna. Most of the interest was concentrated in this area. Twenty-six enrolled in the project with 100% completion, two fewer than last year when two schools were conducted. Billy Gibson, Hughes Memorial School, attended the Leader Training School at VPI and assisted with two of the meetings. Carlton Moshanek continued to serve as co-ordinator of the group with the help of Kirk Perrow. Three Senior club members from the Ringgold Community Club also served as Junior Leaders. Training was offered in Unit A B C and D with most of the enrollment in Unit E & B. Implement & Oil Dealers cooperated with the leaders and agents by furnishing a meeting place, equipment and a company representative or a mechanic to teach at least one of the Units. The other Units, taught the same night, were conducted by one of the adult or Junior Leaders.

Tree planting project - Boys enrolling in the tree planting project were asked to write or come by the county agents office to complete the usual form for planting seedlings. Forty-three boys planted

certain members of the Danville Rescue Squad and the State Troopers assisted in conducting the project. Besides using leaflets and bulletins from the Extension Service, other material was secured from certain businesses and other agencies to promote the program. Besides the Health Project, club members were given an opportunity to enroll in certain home projects based on their interest. Electricity, entomology, safety, gardens and forestry were the most important home projects.

Community clubs - The five community clubs have continued to play a definite part on the county level. Each of the clubs selected their own projects, goals and activities for its program of work. Outdoor Cookery, Forestry, Home Grounds Beautification, and Electricity were the main projects conducted. The adult leaders played a major part in conducting the above programs with the help of the power suppliers, the VPI Horticulture and Forestry Departments, the local forester and the county extension staff. Each of the clubs participated in the Danville Fair, aided a needy family or home, conducted project tours, placed an exhibit to emphasize National 4-H Club Week, took part in the county Share-the-Fun Program, participated or assisted with Rural Life Sunday, attended a summer camp of their choice, entered the WGLS Contest and included business, demonstrations and recreation at their meetings. All members conducted home projects according to their interest.

Minor Projects - To conduct a balanced program it is necessary to include some work on all phases of project work. One of the most

Visits, newspaper articles, radio broadcasts, and bulletins have helped to publicize this phase of the program.

#### M. 4-H Club

For the past year the 4-H club program has grown both in number of clubs and members. The upward trend has continued for the past five years. Ninety clubs were organized with an enrollment of 2,366 members. Eighty-five of these clubs were organized in the classrooms, with the home room teacher serving as sponsor of the club. The five community clubs have adult leaders from their respective communities who work cooperatively with agents. Some work has been done to have project leaders for each of the clubs. This plan will be developed further next year.

Community clubs continue to play a leading role in the county. However, with a majority of the clubs meeting in school, most of the programs will be developed to meet the needs of this group.

In school clubs - These 85 clubs selected Health as their basic project with safety as a linking project. Eighty of these clubs met in the classroom. The project tied in with the regular health classes being offered in school.

The selection of the Health Project was made by the County Council and based on needs found the previous year when Personal Improvement was the main project. The group decided to conduct programs on the following: Better Diets, Better Teeth, Home Nursing, Home Accident, Care & Prevention, First-Aids at the Scene of a Highway Accident, and the importance of electricity to Health. The VPI 4-H club department, local power suppliers, the county health department,

Analysis of the present farm program has been made. This work was done through office calls and individual farm visits.

K. Agricultural Economics

The agents have received many questions throughout the year regarding Agricultural Economics. The agents have worked along with other agricultural leaders in the county to interest especially low income farmers with small tobacco allotments in turning to other types of crops as a source of supplemental income. Aromatic tobacco seems to fit in on many farmsteads and can be produced at a minimum cost, including the cost of equipment and barn conversion the first year.

Publicity has been made available regarding outlook information mainly through news articles and radio broadcasts.

L. Agricultural Engineering

The Extension Personnel's activities in agricultural engineering during the year have been confined mainly to plans for modern farm buildings. Farmers and property owners placed many calls for various plans, including farm dwellings.

The Extension Agricultural Engineers have assisted the county personnel at various times during the year by answering requests for building site locations, plans through the individual needs and building arrangements. This service is gradually increasing each year since many farmers are realizing that so many buildings can be utilized in many different ways during the year.

The county is a member of the Blue Ridge Soil Conservation District. The County Agent serves as secretary to this district association. The SCS personnel consists of four full time employees and one or two part time employees, working on ACP referrals. This agency received a large number of applications for farm planning throughout the entire year and it was impossible to service all the requests until very late in the year. Interest has certainly improved and many land owners are making an honest effort to conserve their soil and water.

I. Forestry

It is estimated that more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  million tree seedlings were planted by county land owners during the year. Each year the number of seedlings planted has increased. The county is fast becoming a wood producing area with increased harvesting of pulwood taking place annually. Several wood product companies are purchasing pulwood throughout the county. More farmers are taking advantage of the selective cutting program. The agents are using newspapers and radio publicity throughout the year to inform land owners of the importance of proper care and management of woodlands.

J. Farm Management

All Extension Agents have assisted with farm management problems during the year. The type of assistance has ranged from just minor problems to complete farm plans. In some cases, changing considerably the program of operation by adding projects that would serve as a source of supplemental income.

About 80 acres needed stripping to save what little top soil he had. Several sod waterways and open drainage ditches were needed. The soil conservationist did this work.

The final plan called for a beef herd, sheep, poultry, small grain and hay. A two year rotation of wheat followed by clover and grass set up with wheat as a cash crop. Pastures would include about 50 acres of river bottom land most of which would have to be bulldozed. The farmer owned a machine for clearing.

Most of the strips have been established. The sheep will be purchased in the spring of 1960 and a beef herd will be added as pastures are developed. A poultry flock of 1,200 hens are already in production.

Two farm and home plans have just been started and will be completed in 1960. So far, all requests for detailed planning have been taken care of. This type of work together with supervision of completed farm plans will be given particular attention. A considerable amount of project planning rather than complete farm planning will be done, where new projects are being added to the existing farm operation.

#### H. Soil and Water Conservation

In 1959 the ACP received requests - if approved, they would have used the county allocation three times. The county committee reduced the amount of the allocation at least 2/3 from original requests. A major portion of the practice approved was for the permanent vegetative cover such as pastures, alfalfa and meadowstrips.

when the program is used to expand operations to meet a serious need for more income, than in cases where the need is not so pressing.

It was proven conclusively that the production of aromatic tobacco must be closely supervised by farm visits the first year or so. Most of the farmers who grew aromatic tobacco this year with little or no supervision marketed a low priced crop with one or two crops rejected.

Commercial egg production has rapidly expanded. If a reliable market is established in Danville, and prospects are very promising, there should be additional expansion in this project. The extension agents are actively cooperating with the Southern Piedmont Poultry Producers Association in expanding and consolidating this new industry.

Farm and Home Development is coordinated with the three Extension-TVA demonstration farms and with the community improvement clubs. Many families in the club areas showed real progress in farm readjustments, home improvement and landscaping the farmstead.

One of the farm plans completed was a joint project between the Farm & Home Development assistant agent and the soil conservationist. This involved a plan on a 400 acre farm. Most of this farm is Lehigh soil, with only 12 to 14 inches of soil on shale and sandstone rock. The owner asked the extension staff to tell him how to produce 75 bushels of corn or more per acre on this land. When he was told the narrow range of crops this soil would grow profitably in a normal season, he asked for a plan to guide him in handling his operations.

The Star-Tribune is the only weekly paper printed in Chatham and cooperates with the Extension office by printing articles and stories furnished by the extension staff and writes feature stories with pictures telling a story of some of the work sponsored by the extension office. This paper puts out a very fine tobacco edition, usually at the time of the local flue-cured tobacco market opening, normally around September 15.

Circular letters, tours and field meetings and also mass meetings are practiced all during the year as a means of publicizing the practices and work that is being done.

The Danville Chamber of Commerce sponsors a mass meeting each year offering programs of interest to farmers in this area, always including several talks or discussions on sources of supplemental income. The attendance is normally 2,300. A large percent of those in attendance at this meeting are from Pittsylvania County.

#### G. Farm & Home Development

The big pinch in farm income is still on in Pittsylvania County and farmers are miserably slow in doing anything about it. Some progress has been made in supplemental farm operations, but progress is moving at a snail's pace. The extension agents have assisted several farmers in getting started in the production of aromatic tobacco, commercial poultry flocks and sheep.

Farm and Home Development has developed into a county-wide program, primarily because farms requiring planning to meet changing conditions is county-wide. It is felt that the greatest good can be realized

F. Publicity

The Extension Agents are making seventeen radio programs per week. Over WDVA, ten 3 minute programs are made per week and five 3 minute programs per week made over WBTM. At Gretna, WQMA, two 8 minute programs are made. It is felt that these programs are being listened to by a majority of the county people. Therefore, efforts are made by the agents to keep the topics timely, giving tips on subjects and practices that will be carried out on the farms and in the homes in the near future.

The county papers are very cooperative throughout the year in publicizing information of interest to farmers. The Danville Register is the only daily paper and has a farm editor who visits the county extension office weekly and also writes a number of feature articles with pictures to help tell the story. This paper put out two farm editions. One was called a tobacco edition. The other one was called the harvest festival edition. All agents contributed articles to these special editions as well as assisted in locating excellent feature articles and helped to work up these articles.

The Commercial Appeal is a semi-weekly publication and is an excellent cooperator in publicizing information of interest to farmers. This paper provided considerable reporter service to the extension office during the year. Also, worked up feature articles and provided excellent pictures of practices both old and new of extension programs being used by many farmers.

The Brucellosis Eradication Program in the county has been started during the past year. The extension personnel are working with the veterinarians in obtaining a listing of all individuals owning dairy or beef cattle. Cooperation from the public has been very good thus far. All of the cattle in approximately two-thirds of the county has been tested to date, and it is hoped that by early in 1960, the testing will be completed. Results of the testing thus far has indicated that there is a very small incidence of Brucellosis among the cattle of Pittsylvania County.

#### E. Poultry

Commercial Egg Production growth and interest decreased at the beginning of this year because of the very low egg prices. Close culling was practiced in order to keep production per bird at a maximum. Small increases were noted in number and at the present time, there are approximately 50,000 commercial layers on county farms. Expansion maybe slow as long as egg prices are down. It is felt that considerable interest in this project will be shown when prices are more favorable. The Extension Service office has made available modern poultry house plans for distribution during the year. The agents appeared before civic clubs, Chamber of Commerce and other interested groups to explain Commercial Egg Production enterprise and what could be expected in the way of income from 20,000 hens.

The Extension Agents will continue to work with present producers and other interested parties to help improve and expand this phase of the program.

Emphasis has been put on the use of sheep as a supplementary source of income in the past year. In the spring and early summer, the extension personnel cooperating with WNSA Radio Station at Gretna put on an intensive sheep publicity program. The station used 15 to 20 spot statements on sheep each day as well as interviewed successful sheepmen at the station. This program resulted in two new flocks being established and several flocks appreciably added to. The county now has approximately 700 sheep on farms and it is hoped that through a similar program publicizing the value of sheep, a goal of 1000 head of sheep maybe realized by 1968.

Considerable interest in pig parlor operating has prevailed during the year with some operations being initiated. Some of these consist of 150-200 hogs. The production of feeder pigs in the county has had some interest expressed this year, but due to the present hog market conditions, very little interest has been expressed recently.

The extension personnel, vocational agricultural department and the Danville Chamber of Commerce cooperatively initiated a county-wide Baby Beef Show and Sale this past year. Approximately 20 steers were consigned to the sale with good results obtained in the marketing of these animals. Plans are now in the making for the sale to be held in the spring of 1968. It is hoped that through more means of publicizing the show and sale, more interest will be stimulated in the boys and girls to take part in the program.

Instead, they are recommending that the farmers prepare to handle cattle at a later date by establishing fences and pastures now.

Three farmers have purchased feeder cattle and replacement heifers through some of the feeder sales held this year. Some of the purebred breeders have obtained a few cattle through the purebred sales held over the state to improve the quality of their purebred operations. There have not been any new herds of beef cattle established in the county.

Most of the cattle producers have cow and calf operations. Many of these producers used the feeder calf sales for marketing their calves. Over 200 calves from the county were marketed through the sales this year. This is an increase over last year and indicates that the producers are realizing the value of using these sales to market their calves. Emphasis is again going to be placed on the marketing of their calves through the feeder calf sales in the coming year.

The county producers have their own organization which is known as the Pittsylvania Livestock Breeders Association with Robert J. Lester, Axton, Virginia, as President; and Howard Hylton, Danville, Va., acting as Secretary-Treasurer. The organization holds meetings four times per year. They have their own program set up and also the objectives for the years work. Attendance and interest in the organization seems to have decreased in the past year; therefore, the extension personnel and several of the members have resolved to make a special effort to revive the organization in the county in the coming year. The possibility of having monthly meetings has also been discussed.

Three TVA fertilizer demonstrations are carried on in the county. Good alfalfa seeding demonstrations are evident over the county, and a lot of work has been done to assist farmers in getting stands and good growth of permanent pasture. Also supplemental, both summer and winter. By use of soil samples, maximum lime, fertilizer and seeding recommendations were made.

With more rain during the summer and fall months excellent pastures were produced. As a result our records have been broken in connection with the amount of hay and silage harvested and stored. There is no sale for hay in this area at the present time.

Twelve dairymen are members of DEMA Association and all dairymen are mainly interested in increasing production per cow, better feeding, breeding and overall dairy management. These programs are being practiced by most dairymen. Most Grade A producers are changing to bulk coolers and many are installing pipe line milkers.

#### D. Livestock

The predominant type of livestock found in the county is beef cattle, although they are maintained as a supplemental source of income on most farms.

The high cattle prices this year have stimulated some interest. However, the buying of cattle which resulted was not deemed advisable. Although supplemental enterprises are being commended to farmers which have lost considerable income due to tobacco acreage decreases, the establishment of beef cattle herds have not been emphasized to any extent by extension personnel because of these high prices.

The extension agents held meetings, office conferences and made farm visits in connection with this tobacco project. Feature news articles and radio broadcasts were used to inform growers.

The extension agents arranged for and assisted in local marketing of this tobacco.

#### C. Dairying

Artificial breeding has lagged in the county for several years due mainly to the poor start when the organization was set up in the state. Because of indifferent technician, dairymen experienced heavy losses due to their breeding program. For this reason it has been hard to secure cooperation from many of the Grade A Dairymen. Most dairymen realize the importance of this work and are gradually taking advantage of the services offered. The county has a technician at present who is doing a good job, but is not being given enough work to justify continuing in this position. It is hoped interest will increase to a point that the right man could depend on it for a living. It was also realized by dairymen that milk production should increase per cow and that a more complete 12 month forage program should be in operation on many dairy farms.

An educational program was put on through the newspapers and radios to help meet the major objective set up by the dairy committee at the planning of the year. These problems have been kept before the people.

One variety in these tests was released in 1959 and one was not.

The tobacco program in Pittsylvania County was publicized through all available means. Community meetings were set up to discuss main tobacco production problems. The extension agents assisted the Chatham Experiment Station in conducting a tour for tobacco growers. Several hundred farmers from the county and surrounding counties attended.

Radio programs were made throughout the year on timely tobacco information and broadcast from three local stations. News letters were mailed to all growers on some of the phases of production. News articles were published in three county papers.

The county tobacco program was strengthened in 1959 by a coordinated effort of all professional agricultural agencies cooperating to furnish growers the best approved recommendations.

Aromatic Tobacco - The interest in Pittsylvania County is increasing in the production of aromatic tobacco. A total of 16,588 pounds of this tobacco was produced by 32 growers in 1959. The income amounted to \$8,186.19. Almost all growers were growing aromatic tobacco as a supplemental income project. One grower received \$1,011.36 above his regular income. Several other growers received from \$200.00 to \$500.00 above regular incomes. This means income they would not have had in 1959 had it not been for the aromatic tobacco project.

Cultural practices - A number of cultural practices are being adopted that are reducing the quality of tobacco. Such practices are close spacing, high topping, excessive fertilization and excessive irrigation. These conditions will not be overcome under present acreage allotments.

The extension agents have stressed the importance of producing quality tobacco, but much more educational work needs to be done.

Harvesting & sucker control - The tobacco industry has been very much concerned over harvesting ripe mature tobacco and some sucker control practices.

Publicity was given to these phases and the results were very good. To date in 1959 no complaint has been received on these phases of production.

Quality - Quality has been emphasized and publicized throughout the year. Because of adverse growing conditions the visible affects were negative. However, since the demand from industry was better in 1959, the price per pound will probably reach record figures.

Company Evaluation test - As in the past the Extension Agents cooperated with the Experiment Station and several tobacco companies and had one grower to participate in the evaluation test of six varieties or breeding lines of tobacco.

Variety tests - Three growers assisted in further evaluation of advanced breeding lines of tobacco. This was also a cooperative project. The three farmers furnished records to be studied by the Experiment Station in determining if the varieties would be released.

The following work was done in 1959 in carrying out the objective and goals set up for the tobacco program:

**Crop rotations** - Tobacco farms with disease problems are rapidly establishing rotations as a means of combating diseases. A large percentage of the farms now have either short term or long term tobacco rotations. A number of farms are limited in good tobacco soils and therefore are forced to grow tobacco continuously in the same fields. The extension agents consider that very favorable progress has been made.

**Soil Tests** - A very effective program on soils was launched in the county in 1959. One phase of the program was devoted to tobacco soils. The number of soil tests for tobacco is estimated to be higher in 1959 than 1958. Fertilizer and lime recommendations were based on results of soil tests, soil types and cropping history.

**Fertilizer** - With the increase in soil tests, there is also an increase in number of farmers using correct analysis and amounts of fertilizer and lime for tobacco.

**Insects and Diseases** - Recommended insects and disease controls have been outlined for all tobacco growers. Most farmers are following these practices.

**Plantbed Management** - Tobacco growers are realizing the importance of producing an ample supply of good healthy plants and are doing so.

**Cover crops** - Practically all farmers are seeding crops to prevent erosion on tobacco soils.

The results will be slow but with the interest that has been demonstrated throughout the year by every segment of the agricultural program, it is felt that definite progress will be made in the years to come.

The same projects will be emphasized next year with more emphasis on the know, use and manage soils program.

### B. Tobacco

The tobacco program is of vital importance to Pittsylvania county's economic welfare. About 5,500 growers are listed in the county and almost all of their income is derived from tobacco alone. In 1959 tobacco accounted for approximately 87% of the cash income received from farm products.

Present estimates indicate that the tobacco yield in 1959 will be slightly less than the record yield of 1718 lbs. per acre produced in 1958. The reduction in yield was brought about by adverse weather conditions during the growing and harvesting season. The income estimates for 1959 will be about the same or slightly higher than 1958 because of strong demands from the buying industry. From the allotted acreage of 17,541.9 acres the farmers will realize about \$15,196,720.00.

Tobacco growers in the county are placing emphasis on quantity rather than quality and consequently are producing a somewhat undesirable tobacco. This condition will remain under the present tobacco situation. Some price incentive will have to be made to place more emphasis on quality.

to recognize the major soil types and to understand treatments that would give maximum returns with the form of yields, quality, etc.

The main objective was to increase yields of all general crops. With tobacco accounting for almost 90% of the total agricultural income, it is felt that definitely the need is to do more to increase income from general crops.

The tours, field meetings, and soil sampling program was highly emphasized throughout the year. Soil Sample boxes and data sheets were distributed to the county stores, service stations with appropriate posters placed in conspicuous places emphasizing the benefits to be expected by participating in this program.

The committee set goals for increasing crop yields that they felt could be reached within the next five (5) years. They were concerned with the low yield of all crops except tobacco. Yields can be increased by applying additional fertilizer, the use of lime, certified adapted seed and improved cultural practices.

Approximately 23,000 acres of wheat were produced in the county. Farmers have taken advantage of the soil sampling program and have turned in considerable more samples this year for tests and recommendations. The ACP cost-share for soil conservation practices were used, drawing on the 1960 allocations. The soil conservation service has experienced a very busy year with the Agronomy Program.

The agricultural leaders of the county are striving to introduce new sources of supplemental income to help more fully utilize the farm labor during a period of six to seven months each year when tobacco work is not so demanding. Commercial egg production, aromatic tobacco and sheep are the most important at the present time. Sweet potatoes are claiming some attention as a commercial crop. This year, two producers will market approximately 1,000 bushels. One grower will sell the crop in the fall, The other farmer will cure the crop and hold for higher prices which normally are recieved in January and February.

#### IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

##### A. General Agronomy

The Agronomy Committee fully realize that yields of all general crops and the acreage of alfalfa and pasture needed to be increased since the county is normally a feed deficit area, especially hay, barley and a year round forage program.

A county-wide soils program was launched to attempt to help educate people, both professional agricultural workers and farmers on the different types of soils. The purpose of this was to learn more about the management, characteristics and capabilities of the major soil types. Soil monoliths were drawn of some of the major soils and used for displays at meetings, fairs and to talk with individuals. This display has created considerable interest.

Tours and field meetings were held throughout the year for the farmers, professional agricultural workers and fertilizer representatives. A careful study was made to learn more about soil make-up

These committees assist Extension Agents throughout the year by helping locate demonstration sites, assist in planning and conducting tours, serve as demonstrators and assist in advertising meetings and other activities. Throughout the year they have direct bearing on the program.

The Extension Staff consists of one full-time county agent, a full time assistant county agent, responsible for boys' 4-H club program, a full-time assistant county agent responsible for Farm & Home Development work, a full-time assistant county agent responsible for livestock and dairying, a two-thirds time assistant county agent responsible for tobacco work, and two office secretaries.

### III. TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Pittsylvania County is a general farming area with flue-cured tobacco the major cash crop. In 1959, 17,241.9 acres of flue-cured tobacco was produced with an estimated value of \$15,196,720.00. The yield will be more than 100 lbs. per acre below the 1958 yield due mainly to a poor growing season. The corn yield is also considerably below the 1958 crop, due to adverse weather conditions. Flue-cured tobacco will again account for at least 87% of the total agricultural income.

Wheat will probably be 2nd in importance with farmers harvesting 23,000 acres, which will amount to almost one million dollars income from this crop. Dairy, poultry, beef, hogs, sheep, corn and forest products are the other main sources of income.

Topography

Of a high plateau with the surface varying from gently rolling to quite hilly.

Interest in sheep production continued upward. At least three new flocks were added to county farms during the year. Approximately 50,000 commercial layers are now housed and in production. Due to very low egg prices last spring and throughout the summer, considerable decrease is realized in this commodity. It is hoped that prices will become more favorable and that the expansion in layer flocks can be resumed.

Industries in the county include flour and feed mills, fertilizer manufacturing, timber, lumber and mill work. September of this year a large tool factory was opened in the county.

It is estimated that a total income from all crops in 1959 amounted to \$19,603,000.00. This figure is approximately the same as for 1958.

**II. COUNTY ORGANIZATION**

The Extension Agents use a County Agricultural Advisory Board, made up of key farmers and Agricultural leaders. Approximately twenty-five (25) men are divided into commodity committees and they advise Extension Agents and help plan a long-time Extension Program and also suggests points to emphasize in the Annual Plan of Work. The major commodities are represented, including tobacco, agronomy, dairy, livestock, conservation and forestry. The committees meet early in the year, review the past years plan of work and suggest revisions for both long-time and Annual Programs of Work.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### Historic Background

Pittsylvania County, formed in 1767 from Halifax county and named for William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, was settled about 1740 by westward-moving Virginians of English descent from the Tidewater.

### Size and Location of County

Pittsylvania, Virginia's largest county in area (1,002 sq. mil. - 641,664 acres since 1951 annexation), lies on the state's southern border in the Piedmont Plateau. Altitudes are generally 400 to 800 feet above sea level with occasional high areas. Smith Mountain in the northwest corner is 2,043 feet, Brushy and Jasper Mountains and Wheeler Knob are from 1,000 to 1,200 feet, and White Oak Mountain, 1,200.

### Significant Agricultural Data of County

One of Virginia's leading farm counties, Pittsylvania has long been the biggest producer of bright leaf tobacco. Approximately 87% of total farm income is from flue-cured tobacco. Grain, hay, dairy products, and livestock are also important. Danville, the state's largest tobacco market, ranks among the largest in the nation and the world. Livestock auctions, grain mills, abattoirs, and freezing lockers make it a market center for other farm products from adjoining Virginia and North Carolina counties.

### Rainfall

Annual precipitation is about 42 inches.

### Climate

Mean temperature is 40° in January, 78° to 80° in July. Averages for period, 1931-55 - U. S. Dept. Weather Bureau.

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# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

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1959

PITTSBURGH

**County**