ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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Powhatan
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ISSUED IN FURTHERANCE OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, ACTS OF MAY 8 AND JUNE 30, 1914, IN COOPERATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. W. H. DAUGHTREY, DIRECTOR, AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA.

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I. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT THE EXTENSION PROGRAM

For the general involvement of leadership in the county, several measuring factors were used involving the adult and youth program.

In the adult group, we found that a larger number of younger people are involved in the planning, execution and evaluation of the Extension work. Characteristics of this action is the continued efficient work of the executive Advisory Board, livestock and agricultural Fair committees. Their contributions in helping to set goals, formulate methods, and evaluate results, were most beneficial. Another illustration of this phase of the program is the 4-H Junior Council and the 4-H Leader Council. These organizations have carried out a program of work that required cooperation, patience, and ingenuity and have had a rewarding year.

The local leadership has contributed to a better standard of living and growth under conditions where progress would have been static. The county organizations and individuals are working cooperatively with the Extension program to bring about desirable changes.

Contributions to a better standard of living, human interest and the intangible results of good will and understanding are evident as a result of this leadership in the Extension program.

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PHASE: AGRONOMY - SOIL FERTILITY AND RECOMMENDED SEEDS

I. The Situation:

The present rate of fertilizer - approximately 300 pounds per acre for most crops with the exception of tobacco - is inadequate to bring economical yields on the farms in Powhatan County. The amount of fertilizer used by the farmers could be tripled in order to bring crop yields up to profitable levels. It is estimated 40% of the farmers are not using recommended seeds. A soil fertility program coupled with emphasis on recommended seeds should be a step toward improving yields on small grain, pastures, hay and corn in Powhatan County.

II. Objectives:

A. To increase the yields of hay, pastures and crops for grain and thereby lowering the cost per unit of production and as a result produce ample economical feed for livestock.

B. To assist the crop producers in becoming familiar with and understanding the recommended fertilizer practices.

III. Results:

A combination of methods were used to reach the objectives in agronomy. Among those used were: Agronomy committee meetings, result demonstrations in tobacco, pasture and corn, circulars, small group meetings with the ACP manager, and soil testing demonstrations.

Two major achievements of progress were noted in soil fertility and recommended seeds. The first of these is the increased number of farmers who desired to have their soil tested. Further, an equal number of farmers purchased the fertilizer and seeds according to the results of the soil test. More than sixty-four per cent of the farmers producing tobacco and establishing permanent pasture followed the recommendations in these two enterprises. According to records, there was an increase of 21% over the previous year.

The second major achievement is the increased number of farmers who used soil samples to determine the fertility needs of all their crops. Typical of this group was C. N. Brown and W. H. Harris of Trenholm and Mohemenco communities. In addition, these two men were corn fertilization demonstrators for their community.

The corn demonstrations were sponsored by the North

Carolina and Virginia Plant Food Institute. The recommendations made by the agronomy specialist were followed and evaluated. However, in spite of the drought in this area, the two demonstrations were a "picture window" both in their community and county. In no area of agronomy have we met with the perfection of enterprise we would like to experience. However, in each area we have noted a change in attitudes coupled with an increase in yields where recommended practices were followed.

PROJECT AREA: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PHASE: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION - SWINE PRODUCTION

I. The Situation:

A number of the farmers in the county are still using swine breeding of a poor meat type and slow rate of growth which gives poor feeding efficiency. Obtaining a better breeding type of swine will help the farmers produce better pigs which are in demand and also aid them in growing market hogs more economical. Many of the farmers require eight months to get hogs to market. It is felt that a better swine breeding stock and program will help the growers market earlier and more efficient.

II. Objectives:

A. To improve the type and quality of hogs produced in the county to meet the market demand.

B. To assist the county hog growers in understanding the importance of good breeding animals and the necessary skills in utilizing good breeding practices.

III. Results:

A livestock committee, market hog show and sales, farm tours, pamphlets, circulars, county fair and bulletins were the methods used in the livestock production program.

One of the major achievements in swine production is the change in attitude of the producers. In addition, there has been a gradual change in skill in selecting breeding animals and utilizing good breeding practices among the hog producers. More than fifty-one per cent of the farmers are using pure bred dams or registered sires to improve their swine production enterprise. This is a fifteen per cent increase over the previous year. Of greater significance is the fact that more than fifty per cent of the hog producers are able to market their hogs in less than six months of age.

The interest and participation in the Feeder Pig Sales in Richmond has more than tripled in the past two years. These hog producers have learned that breeding coupled with feeding and management are some of the major factors in meeting the feeder pig market demand.

Another achievement is in the market hog project. Thirty-five adults and 4-H members participated in the County Fair Market Hog Show. Each producer's hog reached the desired market weight in less than six months of age. In addition, seven 4-H'ers participated in the Market Hog Show and Sale in Petersburg. These 4-H'ers showed and sold eleven hogs weighing 2,398 pounds at five months of age. A total of $466.19 from the sale of hogs including $72.00

in premiums, one rosette and eight ribbons were awarded the county participants for grand champion pen and second through fifth place in single class hogs.

The participation in the County Fair Market Hog Show and the district feeder pig sales and market hog show and sales has continued to stimulate interest in the adults, 4-H parents and 4-H'ers in the county Extension livestock program.

PROJECT AREA: FOUR-H AND OTHER EXTENSION YOUTH PROGRAMS

PHASE: 4-H PROVIDING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES

I. The Situation:

There are more than 600 youth in the county between the ages of 10 and 21. With the decrease in the number of full time farm operators and farm machinery taking over the rural areas. Many youth are with idle time, which they can use more beneficial through 4-H work and its activities. Early marriage, school student drop-outs and increase in the unskilled labor group are among some of the less desirable local situations. The information they receive through 4-H work will help them to develop into more desirable citizens.

II. Objectives:

A. To provide 4-H organizations throughout the county in which youth may join to receive instruction and useful project experience.

B. To assist 4-H members in learning by doing.

III. Results:

The methods used to reach the objectives set up in this program were: 4-H club meetings, 4-H tours, demonstrations, 4-H leaders, county, district and state 4-H activities.

The results of 4-H and other Extension youth programs were evaluated in terms of project completion, club participation in special activities, member and leader participation, parents, 4-H boosters and support of special planned activities.

Two hundred and one 4-H'ers were enrolled in nine clubs. The county project completion was seventy-three per cent. The major 4-H projects were: Career exploration, horticulture, dairy, swine, poultry, clothing, safety and engineering. The 4-H club work in Powhatan County was guided by the twenty-four members of the 4-H Leader Council.

A. STATE CONFERENCES

Nine 4-H'ers and two 4-H leaders attended the State 4-H Short Course in June and the Wildlife Conference in August.

Nine adult 4-H leaders attended the State 4-H Leaders Conference in February. Mrs. Tessie Bates, Clayville community club leader, was elected vice-president of the State Leaders Association.

B. DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Eleven 4-H members and two adult leaders participated in the Market Hog Show and Sale in Petersburg and the Tractor Clinic and Driving Contest in Appomattox County.

C. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

1. Awards Program

The fifth annual Four-H Club Awards Program was conducted this year. Thirty-one 4-H'ers received recognition and awards for their participation and completion of county and district 4-H projects. District awards were: The 4-H Hog Show and Sale, Engineering and the Sears Pullet Chain Project. County awards were swine, dairy, horticulture, tractor maintenance and leadership. These 4-H members received twenty-nine ribbons and $196.25 in value or cash prizes.

The donors for these awards were the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, Powhatan Fair Association, local merchants, fraternal and athletic organizations.

2. Sears-Roebuck Pullet Chain

The Sears Pullet Chain, a veteran project, has now come through its sixth year. Forty-four families in five communities have participated in this project since its inception in the county in 1958.

3. Project Tour

Four-H'ers, parents, 4-H leaders and 4-H boosters attended the annual 4-H club tour July 12, in the county. The tour began at 10:00 A. M. in Hollywood community, and ended at 4:00 P. M. in the 4-H Club Center.

The program included seven 4-H club communities.

Projects observed and graded during the activity were: Poultry, livestock and horticulture. Members of the Advisory Board were responsible for judging the projects during the tour. Transportation and refreshments were provided by the 4-H Leader Council.

4. Rural Life Sunday

Nine 4-H clubs observed Rural Life Sunday in the Mt. Pero Church in Ballsville Community, in May. The Rev. McCoy Lewis, local pastor, delivered the 4-H sermon.

The program was solely conducted by 4-H members. Four-H'ers conducted the devotionals, sang on the choir and served as ushers. A representative from each community club served on the program. This county-wide 4-H activity was sponsored by the 4-H Leader Council.

PROJECT AREA: COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHASE: COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

I. The Situation:

The County Advisory Board consist of three representatives from each magisterial district and two representatives from each community club. There is lack of cooperation between different community clubs in the county in carrying out county-wide activities and events. Therefore, there is lack of effective coordination between the Advisory Board and other community clubs. Several members of the advisory board who have attended State Advisory Board Conferences have expressed a desire to strengthen the County Advisory Board.

II. Objectives:

A. To increase the effectiveness of the County Advisory Board through community club leadership development. To develop community spirit and pride and thereby raising the level of living among the people.

B. To develop a more effective nucleus for leader training through the Advisory Board.

C. To strengthen the cooperation between different clubs.

III. Results:

The methods used by the Advisory Board to reach the objectives of the organization were: Community projects, surveys, county-wide projects, community clubs,

small group meetings, bulletins and a county executive committee.

The Advisory Board added two new members from community clubs to serve on the county executive committee this year. This organization planned a program of work in keeping with the local, state and national situation.

1. Planning Meetings
   - A. Community survey reports
   - B. County population change reports
   - C. County rural farm and non-farm persons reports
   - D. Appointment of committee to execute the areas of the Extension program.
2. Recommendation Meeting
   - A. Community organizations
     1. Community club
        - a. Community objectives and projects
   - B. County organizations
     1. County-wide projects
        - a. Rural area development committee
        - b. Agricultural Fair
        - c. Livestock committee
        - d. Agronomy committee
3. Evaluation Meeting
   - A. Report of all committees, goals and progress
   - B. Recommendations on strengthening activities to improve the various community and county situations

and to stimulate more interest and understanding in the objectives of the Advisory Board.

The effectiveness of the County Advisory Board in the various communities may be measured by the cooperation and increase in membership in the community clubs. A further measuring factor is the interest, initiative and leadership of the younger community representatives in the activities of the county executive committee.

III. GENERAL APPRAISAL OF PAST YEAR

The appraisal and results of this year's work takes the report from the realm of a routine annual account of facts and figures to a personal review of the accomplishments of the citizens of the county with the cooperation of Harvey W. Shelton, assistant farm agent in Powhatan County for three months and this agent.

Some phases of the work were surprisingly successful and some did not measure up to goals set. Perhaps some goals may have been too high and others too low. Nevertheless, through the assistance of Harvey W. Shelton, a number of goals were reached which perhaps may not have been accomplished.

Our youth program has shown an increase in membership, community 4-H clubs, adult leaders, and an increase in project improvement and completions.

The final appraisal factor is the way our farm and non-farm organizations are welding themselves more closely together, increasing in membership of younger people, requesting information in new areas and taking a very active part in improvements in agriculture and rural development to raise the level of living of the citizens within our communities and county.