

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1961

KING GEORGE

County

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I. General Description of Isle of Wight County

Isle of Wight County is located in the southeastern part of Virginia. It is bound by James River on the northeast; by Surry County on the north-west; by Southampton County on the west and south following the Blackwater River - which divides the two counties; and by Nansemond County on the east. The county has an area of 314 sq. miles.

The county seat is located at Isle of Wight Courthouse on state highway # 258. Smithfield, Windsor and Zuni compose the trading areas of the county. The town of Smithfield is located on state highway # 10 and # 258. The town of Windsor and Zuni are located on state highway # 460 and the Norfolk and Western Railway.

The climate is oceanic. The average frost-free season ranges from 190 - 210 days. The long growing season, abundant and well distributed rainfall are important factors in the production of crops.

According to the 1959 census of Agriculture, the land area of Isle of Wight County consist of 205,440 acres. Land in farms consist of 106,409 acres which is approximately 51.8% of the county's total acres are in farms. The average size farm consist of 155.1 acres. The average value per acre is \$165.10.

The total population of Isle of Wight County is 17,136. (No racial breakdown)

The main cash income of Negro farmers in Isle of Wight County comes from peanuts, corn, hogs, soybeans and cotton. Sweet potatoes, watermelons and truck crops surpluses are sold on local markets as a supplement to

54
72

2

main cash crops.

There has been a desire, on the part of Extension Service, to increase interest on part of farmers to expand and improve a more extensive live-stock program of hogs and beef cattle.

There are two senior Negro high schools in the county, consolidated with elementary units. They are Georgie Tyler located at Windsor and Isle of Wight Training School in Smithfield. Recently completed, a consolidated elementary plant in the Hardy District of the Livey Neck community consisting of 14 classrooms, began service September 1961. Provisions have been made for additional classroom due to over crowded conditions. Five two and three room schools throughout the county were consolidated into this unit.

II. County Agricultural Statistic - 1959 Census

A. Operators (Negroes)	197
Full Owners (no racial breakdown)	281
Part Owners (no racial breakdown)	182
Managers (no racial breakdown)	1
All Tenants (no racial breakdown)	222
Residing on Farms Operated	581
Not Residing on Farms Operated	36
Number of farms with other income exceeding value of product sold	90
Part-Retirement (operator 65 years old or over sales \$50 to \$2,499).	75
Total number of farms	686
B. Farms by Type	
Field - crop farms other than vegetable and fruit and nut	413
Cash grain	16
Other Field Crop	397
Dairy farms	7
Livestock farms other than Poultry and dairy	26
General farms	70
Miscellaneous and unclassified farms	140
C. Farms by Economic Class	
Commercial Farms	516

Class I (farms with sales of \$40,000 or more)	2
Class II (farms with sales of \$20,000 to \$39,999)	43
Class III (farms with sales of \$10,000 to \$19,999)	121
Class IV (farms with sales of \$5,000 to \$9,999)	165
Class V (farms with sales of \$2,500 to \$4,999)	140
Class VI (farms with sales of \$50 to \$2,499)	45
Other Farms	140
Part-Time (operators under 65 years of age, and working off farm 100 or more days or with income from other sources greater than farm products sold, and sales of farm products \$50 to \$2,499)	65
Part-Retirement (operators 65 years old or over and sales \$50 to \$2,499)	75
D. Specified Facilities and Equipment	
Tractors	591
Motor Trucks	465
Corn Pickers	335
Grain Combines	105
Crop Drier (for grain & forage crops)	2
Home Freezers	461
Telephones	351
Automobiles	555
E. Specific Farm Expenditures	
Average paid for machine hire	\$289.68
Average paid for hired labor	\$1,123.30
Average paid for gas and oil	\$475.07
Average paid for fertilizer and Lime	\$1,406.26
F. Specified Crops Harvested	
Corn for all purposes	19,386 A.
Corn sold	348,060
Corn hogged or grazed	1924 A.
Soybeans harvested grown alone	8,613 A.
Number of farms growing peanuts alone for all purposes	590
Number of acres harvested for picking and threshing	587
Number of acres	13,588
Numbers of pounds harvested	27,795,706
Tons of vines or tops saved for hay or forage	2,269
Value of vegetables harvested for sale	78.91 A.
Number acres of Watermelon harvested	475

III. County Organization

The Isle of Wight County Advisory Board is composed of 57 men and women from the three magisterial districts and various communities

in the county. Its function is to aid extension workers in formulating a practical program and a plan of work for the people in the county.

1. Farm management is one of the main agricultural program in the county. The general object in the county is to improve the efficiency in agricultural production. With increased problems of disease and insect, a few leaders felt the necessity of improved methods needed to combat their problems. An agronomy school was conducted by H. Marshall Clark, Superintendent of the Tidewater Research Station, at the Georgie Tyler School discussing problems in controlling Nematodes and the southern corn root worms with chemicals. The sting Nematode is known to infest the light soils classified as sandy and loamy. Chemical controls of Nematodes is possible and profitable returns in yields can be obtained providing proper recommended control measures are used.

In stressing emphasis on increase yields in production soil testing is not to be ignored. Thirty four farm and non-farm families were assisted with soil test. Several families faced the fact that they had been using the guessing game with ended results "in the dark."

Few farmers experienced difficulty in controlling the southern corn root worm on peanuts. The use of aldrin with mixed fertilizers showed little or no effect on heavy type soils. In areas where aldrin had failed to give satisfactory control of the root worms, peanut growers were advised to use diazion with prescribed recommendations. Also, at this school questions arose how to control undesirable weeds and grasses. As the result of recommendations made, two result demonstrators conducted experiments with Alanap - 3 and Sinox pre-emergence control chemicals. Weeds were delayed

for three to four weeks. These experiments were proven to be an asset due to the long rainy seasons which prevented the normal early condition following planting.

Calvin Allmond of the Windsor area produced a plot of corn with one cultivation yielding 64.4 bushels per acre, (field measured) with a mixture of DNEP and Sinox P.E., despite a late planting.

2. The County's Farmers Conference was held at the Shiloh Church, March 15 with 85 leaders attending. The program centered around improved practices in farm and home business. Legal Matters of "Wills, Deeds, Inheritances, Gifts, Estates and Income Taxes" were discussed by W. J. Muckolls, Jr., Associate Extension Economist. M. T. Carter, Superintendent Research Station and Agriculture Economics instructor, Virginia State College discussed "Farm and Home Budgeting." With untold possibilities of hog production "Hog Potential in eastern Virginia" was discussed by James K. Butler, Livestock Fieldman, Gwaltney Inc., Smithfield. Emphasis was placed on long lean meat type hogs which the markets are demanding. With the promise hog according to grade on the Smithfield markets rather than the old fashion weight system.

Many farmers wanted to know why? What does the meat type hogs look like? What are some ways to bring about the change by grading up their stock or by getting a breed that would produce such animals?

A follow up meeting was conducted by a Livestock Interest Improvement group to study views of swine improvement, breed certification, on the farm testing, quality selection of breeding stock and classification and evaluation of pork cuts.

Leaders were informed to compare prices of the four prime cuts with the price of lard. Live hogs purchased by packers grading no. 2 and 3 bought a price greater than the lard could be wholesaled. Farm visits, meetings, posters, film strips, and talks with state graders were used to assist farmers to learn about needs for making adjustment in their hog production program.

The opportunity was seized to get farmers to either select or purchase livestock that would produce animals to provide the greatest percent of higher price cuts. With a large percent of our economy interwoven with a continued local meat packing industry, emphasis is being placed on everything that can be done to increase the number of hogs locally and as economically possible.

3. The county was represented at the State Advisory Board Meeting held in Surry County during September. The president of the County Advisory Board, Ieland Chapman, Margaret Ashburn and the two agents made up the delegation. The board paid the fee of \$10.00 that is used to foster the Community Improvement work sponsored by the State Advisory Board.
4. In order to provide funds for the treasury of the County Advisory Board, a Pre-Thanksgiving Banquet was held at the Georgie Tyler School on November 22, 1961. Dr. J. L. Lockett spoke on "Adjusting the Farm and Home to Meet the Changing Economy." Funds raised will be used to defray expenses of delegates to State Advisory Board Meeting, leaders to Family and Community Improvement Meeting, Virginia State College and 4-H leaders to State Leaders Association.

Isle of Wight Cooperative Club

The Isle of Wight Cooperative Club was organized in 1952. The purpose of this cooperative organization is to purchase fertilizer, lime and other

farm supplies in large quantities on a cost plus basis for membership. This organization invests managerial authority in a purchasing committee. The duty of this committee is to (1) order supplies for entire membership (2) obtain best possible prices (3) assemble orders (4) collect from membership for purchases (5) place orders with dealers (6) and have shipments delivered to purchasers. All business previously have been done on a cash basis, payable thirty days after delivery. With several years of drought and low productive crop yields some members were forced to make purchases else where in order to secure a longer period of loan. Through efforts of club officers and advice of the agent, a proposition was presented to the dealers whereby members who owned property could get an extended loan and continue to purchase through the association.

The organization has been headed by L. A. Lewis of Zuni since the beginning of operation. On September 3, 1961 M. Lewis was called from labor to reward. The entire membership mourn the loss of such a dependable and energetic leader who devoted his loyal service to the club.

The Association makes a complete annual report to members at their regular annual meeting and fish fry. The club operated with eighteen members in 1961. Total cash receipts for 1961 were \$4,071.61. Total business done in nine years of operation \$84,838.90. Amount to reserve for the nine year period \$422.28.

IV. Project Activities in Production

A. Peanuts

Higher yields, better quality and increased profits were goals of ten result demonstrators through better production practices. Areas selected for demonstration were (1) Improved varieties

- (2) seed treatment (3) fertilizer and lime (4) rate of planting
 (5) and weed control by use of pre-emergence sprays.

Soil testing was a prerequisite to conducting demonstrations. Laboratory tests were made on soils to correct acidity content to an average of 6.25 average median point for most crops. Soil tests revealed, in many cases, a sufficient amount of lime PH but a deficiency of magnesium. Different forms of lime were used in effort not to off-set the soils with a correct reading upon testing. A fertilizer analysis of 0-10-20 was broadcast and plowed down at rate of 400 to 600 pounds per acre. Seed treatment consisted of 2 to 3 ounces of Cerasan or Arasan per 100 # of seed. Sulphur dusting was recommended for control of leafspot, also to keep foliage green and thrifty in a healthy growing condition. First application consisted of 15 # applied around July 1. Two additional applications were applied at two week intervals with 20 to 25 pounds. Plaster was used at a rate recommended by soil test. Land plaster was applied in a wide band over the row for bunch peanuts and broadcast for runner peanuts. The flat shallow cultivation method was used to control stem rot. Despite the cultural method used, a late summer drought cause leaves to shed, falling on the stems and caused the moldy fungus to develop. This condition existed where the second application of sulphur was eliminated.

The recent revolution of mechanize harvesting of peanuts with the combine from the windrow and drying artificially have received general acceptance. Questions are yet hung in the mind of few farmers with the paraphrased quotation of Shakesphere "To Dry or Not to Dry." Some farmers felt that 1961 crops were not a fair crop to experience the new harvesting. With effort to improve newer methods of marketing as well as production, a stock peanut grading was conducted by the Virginia Division of Market demonstrating new pieces of Automatic equipment used in grading peanuts at all buying stations in 1961. Previously, fifty percent of grading was done by hand. With the addition of a pre-sizer that determine the percentage of fancy peanuts and a automatic sheller, almost one-hundred percent of human elements have been removed from grading stock peanuts. Another factor which is of a financial benefit, five percent of split kernels will grade as sound kernels without penalty to the grower. The grower will receive the same price for the split kernels as whole kernels. Previously, all splits went into unsound kernels with a reduction in price. With the installation of additional automatic equipment, faster grading service is provided to growers.

B. Corn

Six result demonstrations were conducted to teach farmers how to be more efficient in land use, production and marketing. Specific method used (1) Follow recommended cultural practices (2) Lime and fertilize according to needs (3) Plant recommended

varieties (4) and select soils with high organic content. Two of six demonstrations were conducted on chemical weed control with one cultivation on a 100 bushel recommendation.

C. Livestock

With hogs being the hottest item in southeastern Virginia, the greatest activity in livestock production in the line of Extension Service is to educate hog growers to thinking of the type of hogs the consumers wants. Recent transition from weight buying to grading has necessitated changes in selection, breeding and feeding of hogs. Two meeting were held discussing and showing film strips of proper selection, methods of breeding, comparison of primal cuts, sanitation, feeding practices and care of pigs and sow at time of farrowing. A survey observed of 3 farms in one community of the county showed death loss of 61 animals with a monetary loss of \$2,240.00. Losses were due to lack of use of preventative measure of diseases, inefficient use of feed, poor sanitation, and inadequate quarters.

Many losses were due to pneumonia caused by use of too strong dips to control lice. With a burning effect, the animals stayed in water long periods in effort to keep cool and secure comfort.

An example of poor preventative measures, a survey report from the packing plants of Smithfield during the month of May showed over 104,500 pounds of liver were condemned due to internal parasites. Valued at 21 cents per pound, this amounted to \$21,956.97 loss. (September 27 V.F.I. News Release) Virginia and southeastern hogs showed higher percentage of internal parasite infection than mid-western hogs.

V. Feed Grain Program

Two county-wide meetings were held during the sign up period of the emergency feed grain program to divert corn and grain sorghum to conservation use. Two-hundred and ninety-eight farms cooperated with the program. (Figures of Negro cooperators not available from ASCS office) A total of 3048.3 acres of corn and 96.4 acres of grain sorghum were diverted into conservation use.

The base figure of corn in the county was 52 acres, based on 1958, 1959, and 1960 averages. Many growers expressed extreme

dissatisfaction over the base yield figure set up by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Agency used to compute payments to farmers. Growers felt the figures were too low. Most of the figures came from farmers. This situation points out the fact some farmers were too conservative with their reports. This points out a fact that farmers should be more realistic with records and estimates of production.

VI. 4-H Club Activities

Nine 4-H boys Clubs was supervised by the agent, Lawnes, Trinity, Bridger, Carrollton, Camptown, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh grades at Georgie Tyler School. A Community Club was organized in October, 1961 in the Holly Grove Community. There were 197 boys enrolled in these clubs. Each boy carried at least one project. A total of 215 projects in Safety, Sweet Potatoes, Forestry Appreciation, Wildlife and Nature Study, Swine, Entomology, Tractor Maintenance, Electric, and Beautification of Home Grounds were entered. One-hundred and forty-nine were completed. (69%)

VII. 4-H County Council

The County Council is composed of 105 members. Two meetings were held to train officers and make plans for Rural Life Sunday.

On October 28, the annual Achievement Day was held at the Georgie Tyler School in Windsor. Two of the nine clubs exhibited work done during the club year were blue ribbon winners. Cash awards were made possible by Union Bag-Camp, Franklin, Smithfield Packing Company, Gwaltney Incorporated and Bill Bailey's Pontiac Company of Smithfield. A total of \$186.50 was donated by these

firms.

Awards were made to the following boys; Achievement, George Bradby of Lawnes Club, Electric, Alvin Stokes of Georgie Tyler Club and the Certificate of Merit to Glen Johnson of Georgie Tyler Club.

A review of extension activities during the year was given by the agent.

VIII. 4-H Short Course

One boy delegate attended the 4-H Short Course. The delegate attended the section in Leadership. No men leaders attended the Short Course. Fifty-four junior members attended a one day session and witness the talent show.

IX. 4-H Wildlife Conference

William Artis, Earl Lawrence and Joseph Briggs, Jr. attended the Wildlife and Conservation Conference held at Virginia State College in Petersburg August 1-3.

X. National 4-H Club Week

National 4-H Club Week was observed on individual club basis. Each club sponsored a program and presented to the student body and P.T.A. of each school in the county. The objectives and some facts were given about 4-H Club work in the United States and Foreign Countries. Posters were made with different captions and exhibited in several business establishments and school throughout the county.

XI. Tidewater Fair

Clubs were urged to support this fair by exhibiting project work and attendance. One club from the county exhibited work done by

member and was rewarded a second prize.

Four boys carried swine project for participation in the Junior Market Hog Show and Sales. Late purchases and lack of proper feeding methods as was recommended, quality maintained was not worthy to exhibit for show purposes.

XII. General Statement About 4-H Club Work

Even though 4-H Club work is not what the agent would like to see in the county, the agents feels that the opportunities of self expression, information given through talks and demonstrations with extended guidance in planning phases of our program, such as, participation in fairs, and State meetings provide club members with a wealth of experiences they would not normally get in classroom instruction. With new techniques and quality teaching through use of visual aids, we face the future with great anticipation of endeavor to use the advantages to meet our unmet needs.

XIII. Pasture

Fifteen acres of new seeded pasture were seeded with Ladino-Crochard grass mixture. The newly seeded pastures were sown with efforts to establish year round grazing with three applications of fertilizer per year. In sandy soils, grazing was available each month. With results obtained, possibilities exist of producing year round pastures on sandy soils with adequate fertilization at frequent intervals during the year. Twenty-three acres of old pasture was improved by reseeding, application of lime and fertilizer and clipping. Soil test were made to determine PH content on new and old pastures.

XIV. Farm and Home Development

In recent years many farmers have been hit by low yields due to extreme dry weather and overflow of rain at inopportune times. Farmers, unlike other business men, must purchase supplies on a protected market and sell their produce on an open market. Many farmers have obligations to merchants that other business don't have. Two business establishments may thrive at the expense of one farmer.

Five families were listed at the beginning of Extension year. Three families were inactive in program of work. Winston Evans of Zuni community was met with misfortune by an act of nature. Hurricane Donna removed his farm machinery shed from its foundation at a total loss. With advice and plans from Extension Mr. Evans decided to construct a new shed 100' x 22' to house his machinery and space for a two car garage. With the aids of plans, Mr. Evans was able to construct his shed with the assistance of hired farm labor at a sizable reduction in cost. His former plans included a contractor to build the building

A. S. Allmond at Windscr community has been plague with a problem of securing loans for farm operations. Having not been successful to secure loans to off-set occuring bills, he continued to operated a truck route throughout the county and Newport News selling vegetables to assist in defraying his expenses of operations.

With more background information of other families enrolled, the agent feels that greater accomplishments can be achieved through

the assistance of Extension to improve their operations through resources currently available.

XV. Community Improvement Work

The County's Community Improvement work is conducted in the Holly Grove Community, located five miles east of Isle of Wight Courthouse on State highway #637.

Community live-at-home improvement work is sponsored by the State Advisory Board. The purpose of live-at-home work is to teach the value of community improvement and the advantages of working together in order to develop a better community by strengthening economical, educational, and social activities.

The club consist of twenty-three farm families. Projects conducted during 1961:

1. Community clean up campaign.
2. Erect community signs (Head-quarters)
3. Organized a Community 4-H Club.
4. Farmers, Home demonstration women and 4-H Club members participated in County's Achievement Day program.

Assistance was provided by Extension to provide necessary information available to members regarding farm, home and community development and application of same. Also assistance was given to special committees in specific planning, through film strips, meetings and personal visits.

XVI. Farm Home Landscape Work

During the month of January a survey questionnaire was sent out to 100 farm and home families in efforts to improve home and surroundings. Forty per cent of the families returned questionnaires ask-

ing assistance from extension service to improve the lawns, walks and driveways. On March 7, thirty-seven people attended a landscape demonstration at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Bradby, Jr. in the Rushmere community. Dr. W. L. Watson, Horticulturist at Virginia State College conducted a demonstration on improving old lawns, seeding new lawns, shrubbery arrangement, driveways, walkways and other areas of yard beautification.

Assistance was given to Fred Thompson, teacher at Georgie Tyler School in establishing a lawn at his newly constructed home in the Windsor community.

XVII. Cooperating With Other Agencies

Assistance was given to the Vocational Agriculture Tidewater District Federation in judging and administering test to N.F.A. boys participating in Tractor Driving Care and Maintenance Contest.

A meeting was held with Voc. Ag. teachers to combine educational resources to encourage greater participation in Junior Market Hog Show and Sales and Sweet Potato by N.F.A. and 4-H boys. Also, bulletins and leaflets were provided to Vocational Agricultural instructors for personal and classroom use.

XVIII. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Program

Assistance was given to the ACP development committee to develop county's ACP Conservation practices for 1962. This committee was composed with Soil Conservation Technician, County Forester, ASCS County Committee men and Extension Agricultural agents.

XII. Civil Defense

The role of rural civil defense educational has become a part of Extension Service to inform rural families about radiation threats and defense against it. Civil defense program is designed to protect life and property from injury and damage caused by natural disaster or possible an enemy attack.

Due to circumstances beyond control the agent did not receive a State Office of Civil Defense educational kit made available for each county office.

Two meetings were held with A-H members and adults to discuss the effects of radiation. Also, construction of fallout shelter, family food stock pile for survival, first aid, length of time to remain in shelter after an attack and care of livestock during an attack was shown on a film strip secured from the County Agent, Walter Grissard.

No committee was appointed to help support and carry out a county-wide program. The agent did not assume this responsibility due to the fact the county does not have a local coordinator. With a continuous effort, information will be publicized through public meetings, news articles, bulletins, letters, and personal contacts to assist people of rural communities to gain an understanding of and support their county civil defense program.

XI. Farm and Home Tour

A farm and home tour was held Friday, October 6. The purpose of this tour was to observe some of the projects that are being carried out in connection with the county extension programs.

Four homes were toured in four different communities to observe two improved, up-to-date kitchens and installation of two bathrooms. Also, stops included in the tour included an improved Ladino-Orchard grass pasture and a fall commercial vegetable garden. A total of seven varieties of vegetables were observed in their peak of production on a two acre plot.

During visits to each stop the demonstrators told how they planned and carried out these projects and answered questions concerning their operations.

An Evaluation

The primary goal of extension workers is to promote educational activities of economic production, marketing, development of better rural communities and social conditions. As a new agent with one year of working experience as an extension worker, all efforts have been provided that was felt practical and constructive to assist all who were concerned. With some pitfalls in educational techniques, a varieties of educational methods are sometimes needed to bring about a change in people to accept new concepts. In working with people one observe many types of attitudes. Such attitudes are reflected when new research, technological progress, institutional changes and economic conditions take place. Frequent reflections of attitudes occur when the learner does not have facilities to practice and acquire the skill that is being taught.

In executing a plan of work some mistakes will be made. The agent however, believes some progress was made during the year toward a ultimate goal of achieving better things needed to better living conditions in the county.