

project work. All the community 4-H Clubs were asked to turn in information on a special form giving the judging committee information on their activities, projects completed etc. The judging committee which included members from the Kiwanis Agricultural Committee and Extension Agents then scored the club on the basis of this information, plus additional information furnished by the agents. Prizes were presented to the six winning clubs at a regular Kiwanis luncheon to which the presidents and adult leaders from these clubs were invited. These awards included: first prize and second prize were \$50.00 and \$25.00 Saving Bonds respectively, third prize \$17.50, and the other three prizes were \$7.50. (Picture and News Article Attached.)

One other commercial firm in the county donated \$25.00 to each of the nine community 4-H Clubs to be used for community projects.

V. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Extension Staff worked with the Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Committee, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Conservation District Supervisors, Vocational Agricultural Teachers, Farm Home Administration, Production Credit Association, and National Forestry Service, the Rockingham Cooperative Farm Bureau, and Huritan Clubs, Kiwanis Club Agricultural Committee, County Board of Supervisors, Shenandoah Valley Electric Co-op, Rockingham Poultry Marketing Co-op, and Shen-Valley Meat Packers Co-op. The Agents have furnished information to the above groups and have given farmers information on the agricultural programs administered by the respective agencies. The Agents participated in the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Committee Meetings, and served on the Agricultural Conservation Committee.

8. Crops and Horticulture.

Nine members enrolled and five completed.

Eleven members had thirty-five exhibits in crops at the county fair winning \$6.00. Sixteen members had thirty-eight exhibits in horticulture, winning \$12.75.

9. Entomology

Seven members enrolled and four projects were completed.

One member entered the State Entomology Achievement contest and won a \$20.00 scholarship for the third straight year.

10. Rabbits

Eleven members enrolled and five completed.

11. Safety

One hundred fifty-three members enrolled, and one hundred eight projects were completed.

C. 4-H Camp.

Eighteen boys and twenty-five girls attended the District 4-H Camp at Powell's Fort Valley. The Assistant Agent served as assistant director in charge of boys and taught a class on handicraft and rope halter.

D. Achievement Program.

In connection with the annual 4-H Club Achievement, a "share-the-fun" contest was held. Part of the program was devoted to entertainment and prizes were awarded to the three best entertainment features presented by the group under 14 yrs. and three of the group over 14 yrs. of age. County medals in safety, entomology, dairy, leadership, forestry, garden, poultry, swine and public speaking projects were presented at the meeting.

E. 4-H Club Shortcourse and All Star Conference

Seven boys attended the 4-H Shortcourse held in Blacksburg in June. One boy was initiated into the All Star Organization.

F. Other 4-H Activities.

The "Best Club Contest" which is sponsored by the Harrisonburg Kiwanis Club was set up to encourage community 4-H clubs to participate in community projects and activities; to conduct good business meetings; and to carry on good

Ridge 4-H Club, who went to the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest at Waterloo, Iowa. (Picture and News Article Attached.)

6. Poultry.

Forty-six members enrolled and thirty-seven completed.

Eighteen members had thirty-two poultry exhibits at the fair winning \$44.50 in prizes.

One important poultry project in Rockingham County was the Junior Broiler Grower Contest. This was sponsored by the feed companies, hatcheries, and banks, and was organized to include the adjoining counties under the name Shenandoah Valley Area, however, this year Rockingham County was the only county participating. All 4-H members interested in the Junior Broiler Grower project were given an opportunity to get their chicks from the hatchery and feed from any feed company they selected. All chicks were obtained the same day. During the growing period all the projects were visited by a committee and scored accordingly to the management practices being carried out in the poultry house. On a set date, each member was then asked to bring in ten cockerels from the flock of one hundred birds. The member was to select the best ten cockerels and the remainder of the broilers were to be sold by the member. The ten cockerels which were brought into the dressing plant were then dressed and then eight of these were judged and scored and the first four placings were exhibited in the State contest held in Richmond. Three of these first four placings placed in the State contest; one placed first, one second, and one seventh. Eight of the cockerels which were delivered to the dressing plant were auctioned off after the scoring was finished. The total 587.5 lbs. of broilers were sold for \$990.87 with an average of \$1.69 per lb. The first prize lot sold for \$5.00 lb., the second \$3.50, and the third \$3.00. (Picture and News Article Attached.)

One poultry judging clinic was held to train members in poultry judging, however, a team was not available to participate in the district contest.

Janet Estep won the State poultry achievement record competition at the 4-H Shortcourse at V.P.I., making her eligible to attend the National 4-H Congress in Chicago this fall and compete there for a \$300 college scholarship award. She is a past national winner in the turkey federation achievement class and won the State poultry award last year.

7. Forestry.

One member enrolled and the project was completed.

the seventy-one projects were sponsored by the Sears Roebuck Agricultural Foundation. The gilts were scored at the members homes for feeding and management practices. The last feeding and management scoring will take place when the first litter is born. The Sears Agricultural Foundation project members were entertained by the local Sears Order Office at a dinner meeting which was attended by eighty-two 4-H and FFA members and parents, Extension agents and wives, vocational agricultural instructors and wives, and employees of the local Sears Order Office. The awards were presented to the 4-H and FFA members by the Sears officials. 4-H awards for the 1959 projects were: \$27.50, \$22.50, \$17.50, \$15.00, \$7.50, \$5.00 and \$5.00.

3. Beef.

There were twenty-one members enrolled with fifteen completing.

4-H members had forty-six exhibits at the county fair, winning \$349.00.

The twelve baby beef calves, which were exhibited in the county fair were again shown at the regular Saturday livestock sales and nine of them were sold. The average weight was 950 lbs., and they sold for an average price of \$28.70 per hundred. The top was \$30.00 per hundred.

Two baby beef calves were then taken to the State Fair and entered in the fat calf show and sale at Richmond, and placed sixth and seventh.

4. Sheep.

There were twelve members enrolled with eleven completing.

4-H members had six exhibits at the fair, winning \$26.00 in prizes.

5. Dairy

Forty-four members enrolled in dairy projects, and thirty-six completed. 4-H members had twenty-nine exhibits at the fair, winning \$127.50. Special emphasis was placed on dairy judging during the year. Two special county training sessions were held; one at Augusta County, which was attended by twelve members, and another in Rockingham County, in connection with the twilight dairy meeting. The Rockingham County dairy judging team placed first in the Northern Virginia District Contest, and one individual member placed fourth in the State individual scoring, and was selected to serve on the State Dairy Judging team. This member was William C. Craun, a member of the Timber

two Saturdays (National bangle sale days) to selling bangles in Harrisonburg. A total of \$1529.36 was collected by one-hundred 4-H boys and girls who assisted in the bangle sale. A silver trophy was presented to the club collecting the most money, and five other prizes were presented to boys and girls collecting the most individually through the sale of bangles.

The Council also sponsored a food booth at the Rockingham County Fair. The profit (\$421.81) is used to promote county 4-H club work. (Picture attached.)

County All Star Organization

In addition to the two regular county All Star meetings, six All Stars attended the annual 4-H Club All Star Key Award program held in Front Royal. The All Star organization has continued to maintain the interest of individual members in the over-all county 4-H club activities, and we have All Stars which are serving as volunteer leaders.

B. Projects

As of April 1, 1959, there were 297 boys and 17 girls enrolled carrying 396 projects in potatoes, home gardens, corn, forestry, beef, dairy, swine, entomology, sheep, poultry, farm and home electric, rabbits, safety, ponies, and horses. Of the 396 projects, 288 were completed with a completion percentage of 72.7%. Six clubs had 75% or better project completion, and three clubs had 100% project completion. The net profit on the 288 projects was \$10,716.67.

1. Farm and Home Electric

Eighteen members were enrolled and sixteen completed.

Three Farm and Home Electric project meetings were held at the Virginia Electric and Power Company, and the Shenandoah Valley Electric Co-Op with the assistance of agricultural engineers. 97 members attended. At the conclusion of the project meetings, the record books were completed and judged by a committee from the Power Companies and the Assistant Agent. The boy submitting the most outstanding record was then awarded a trip to the Congress at Richmond. (Picture and News Article Attached.)

2. Swine

Seventy-one members were enrolled in the project, and forty-nine completed. 4-H members had thirteen exhibits at the county fair winning \$45.00 in prizes. Seven of

A. 4-H Club Meetings.

The nine night community clubs meet monthly; six of these meetings are supervised by the adult boys and girls volunteer leaders, and one of the agents meet with the clubs the other six times. The alternate months when the agent meets with the clubs, an effort is made to hold the business meeting to one-half hour, and one hour is set aside for project discussion and demonstrations by the Extension Agent. The plan for those meetings conducted by the adult boys and girls volunteer leaders is to divide the one and one-half hours into three parts; one-half hour for business; one-half hour for member participation or program, and one-half hour for recreation. The alternate months when the agent does not meet with the night community clubs, an effort is made to visit in the respective communities and contact the adult boys leaders and discuss with them matters that should be discussed at their club meeting that month, and also to visit members projects that need special attention.

In the nine junior boys' clubs organized for members of the sixth and seventh grades, the first meeting of the school year is held during the month of September, and the last meeting during the month of May the following year. The last meeting of the school year in May, project record books are closed out. In cases where the projects are continued, the balance is carried forth to another book for using during the summer months. Each boys club has a set of officers, president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and recreation leader. Fifteen minutes of each meeting is devoted by the agents in training of officers, and transactions of any business; thirty minutes is devoted to project discussion and demonstration; and, the remaining fifteen minutes to training of other members in taking part in club meetings, and singing 4-H club songs, and playing sit down action games. Only in rare cases are adult leaders available in the 6th, and 7th grade school clubs, however, the club president is encouraged to have each of his other officers act as junior leaders and divide the rest of the membership accordingly.

County 4-H Council

The County 4-H Council is composed of all officers of the county clubs, with the adult volunteer leaders as advisors. Spring and Fall meetings are held annually. A short business meeting was held at each meeting with election of officers at the fall meeting. One important activity of the 4-H Club Council is sponsoring the county TB Association community and national TB bangle sales. One Saturday in December was devoted by 4-H Club members to selling bangles in their respective communities, and

In home gardens no special meetings were held this past year. Information on insect and disease control was supplied through the radio and press. In addition, individual insects and diseases were identified and control was recommended either through personal visits or from the office, if possible.

F. Farm Forestry

A high percent of the farms within the county have at least a small woodlot acreage. There is a need for forestry improvement in many of these woodlots and there are still many acres in the county better suited for tree production than any other crop.

Forestry improvement and tree planting was stressed through radio and newspaper publicity. The Extension Staff worked very close with the Soil Conservation Service and Virginia Forestry Service in the "plant more trees" program. One tree planting demonstration was established to demonstrate the value of planting trees in a farm woodlot where desirable trees are not available.

G. Pest Control

Again this year one week was set aside for poisoning rats. Special emphasis was given in publicity on methods of getting rid of rats and rat harbors.

IV. 4-H CLUB WORK

In Rockingham County, which is the third largest county in the State, there are approximately 7,360 boys and girls 4-H club age in the rural area. Due to the high diversified agriculture, a special effort has been put forth to make many different agricultural projects available to 4-H club boys.

In 1959, there were 29 different 4-H clubs in the county. Nine joint boys and girls community night clubs, nine boys and nine girls elementary school clubs in the sixth and seventh grades. The total membership was 697 boys and girls.

In the nine community night clubs there were twenty adult leaders and nineteen junior boy volunteer leaders. Each leader was asked to enroll the boys carrying farm-projects from the five families nearest him, and then was asked to select a junior leader from this group to assist in group activities and with the projects in the club program.

In addition to the 4-H clubs, the County 4-H Council and the County All Star Organizations, which both meet semi-annually, play an important part in planning 4-H club programs and assisting in carrying on 4-H activities.

not using good rams. Parasites are still a problem in some flocks and there are a good many lambs that are not being castrated and docked.

Our objective is to get producers to use better rams, control parasites at the proper time, and castrate and dock lambs.

The agent assisted the purebred producers in conducting a sale in order to provide more and better purebred rams for the flock owners in the county. This year 43 rams were sold in the sale. Special feature radio programs and special feature news articles were prepared to publicize the objective setup in our plan.

3. Swine

There are about 25,000 hogs sold annually in Rockingham County, however, most of these are produced in small hog lots and only small numbers of hogs are produced by each producer. During the past year, a few producers have become interested in modernizing their hog operation and increasing the size some.

Our objective was to get information to these producers on the outlook and also on buildings and equipment which are most economical and practical. Several of the producers were visited to plan the operation and one meeting was held to give additional information on management practices needed in a modern operation.

E. Horticulture

1. Fruit

Apple and peach producers are an important part in the agriculture in Rockingham County. However, the number of orchards and the number of trees are on the decrease. One problem in the county has been the apples are not properly colored on many of the trees.

The objective set up in our plan was to improve the color by getting producers to do a better job of pruning and by sending producers timely information on spraying for insects and diseases.

The growers in the county were urged to attend the area meeting in Shenandoah County to get the latest information on pruning, disease and insect control. A large percent of the growers attended.

Two pruning demonstrations were held to give producers information on proper pruning.

2. Farm Gardens

and stub horns; and to eliminate cows with dairy breeding from the beef herds. A large percentage of the beef cattle farms in the County do not have the proper equipment available on the farm for testing the cows, and castrating, and dehorning the calves. This has prevented many herd owners preparing their cattle for the sales.

Another objective was to improve the quality of beef cattle in the county and in the sales and increase the number of cattle in the demonstration sales.

One meeting of beef producers was held to build more enthusiasm in the demonstrational sales and get information to the producers on what to do in order to get cattle into the sales.

The three annual State Sales have improved our local feeder calf, and feeder cattle market. A high percent of the cattle in these sales are being sold to buyers from other feeder cattle areas, and this has helped absorb the large supply of feeder cattle available in this area. The sale has also encouraged producers to use better bulls, and get better cows. The quality of cattle in our sales has been improved.

Two thousand and seventy cattle were sold in the three sales this year, and last year two thousand and sixty-six were sold. Our objective has been to increase the percentage of fancy and choice grade cattle, but, this percentage was small this year. We believe this decrease was due to the increase in the number of cattle and to the growing season.

Our plan was to get information on building, on castrating, and dehorning calves at the proper time, and on building handling pens and chutes. This year this was done through publicity in newspaper and radio.

The producers who have served as leaders in developing the special sales have also served as leaders in developing better cattle in the county. This demonstration has made a real contribution to improving the cattle, increasing the price of feeder cattle in the area, and providing an outlet for more feeder cattle.

2. Sheep

There are approximately 20,000 ewes in the County; this is an increase of about 4,000 during the past 5 years. There is, however, a place for more ewes in the County as there are still many farmers who could better utilize pasture and profitably increase their volume of business with sheep. There are many flocks of sheep in the county producing high quality lambs. In some cases, producers are

These records are for the herd owners' own use in culling, feeding and improving his herd. Fourteen herds with 390 cows are participating. Our plan was to expand this program this year, however, we have actually lost two herds. We believe considerable time needs to be devoted to educating the Amer-Sampler herd owners on how to use these records. Sufficient time has not been available to do this.

Some time was devoted to assisting individual dairy-men in designing a plan for remodeling the present barns in order to provide comfortable economical facilities for the dairy cows and also reduce the labor required to care for the herd.

More time needs to be devoted to the dairy education program than was available from the Extension staff this past year. However, there has been an increase of about 800 pounds of milk and 30 pounds of butterfat per cow in the Dairy Herd Improvement demonstrator herds during the past four years. This would be an average increase of over \$1200 more gross income per herd annually.

D. Livestock

1. Beef Cattle

Beef cattle is one of the major sources of income in Rockingham County. There are approximately 14,000 beef cows and 17,000 steers, bulls, and steer calves. During the past year there has not been much change in the number of beef cows, but, the number of steers being grazed and fed grain in the County has increased. However, Rockingham County does not produce sufficient grain to feed the feeder cattle available in the county.

The objective of our plan was to develop a better market for feeder calves and feeder cattle. The Extension Staff has continued to work with the producers in conducting three special State Grade Sales, the calf and yearling fall sale, and the yearling steer and heifer spring sale. The purpose of these sales is to provide a market outlet for feeder cattle to other cattle feeding areas. This year the sales were conducted by the Rockingham Feeder Cattle Sales Association which was organized by the producers for the purpose of conducting the sales. These three annual graded sales have attracted a good many buyers from other areas. Our plan was to increase the size of each of the three sales, and improve the quality in order to attract more buyers. The number of cattle available for these sales may be increased by getting herd owners to test their herds for Bangs and T.B.; to eliminate stags; to eliminate horns

Virginia in 1954. During the past year there has been a considerable increase in the number of herds selling grade "A" milk, and some increase in the number of dairy cows. The production per cow is not as high as it is in some of the other leading dairy counties.

The objective in our plan was to increase milk production per cow by getting farmers to produce better quality of forage, eliminate mastitis, and get a better breeding conception.

The second objective was to get producers who need housing facilities to build economical practical facilities or remodel present buildings.

The third objective was to get producers to feed the individual dairy cows according to production.

One of the important activities was a two-day county dairy school which was organized to bring information to the dairymen on objectives outlined above. This school was planned by the County Dairy Extension Committee with a special effort being placed on getting information to the dairymen on the objectives outlined above. The milk marketing organizations and artificial breeding organizations were asked to cooperate and invite producers. All producers were notified about the school by letter and asked to make a reservation so the committee would know how many to plan for. The entire school was attended by over 60 dairymen.

Our plan this year was to expand the D.H.I.A. demonstration program as we have found the Dairy Herd Improvement program very effective in increasing production. A part of our plan was to hold a herd analysis meeting and discuss management practices, which have proven effective in increasing production in the higher producing demonstration herds. Another meeting of D.H.I.A. demonstrators was held to build enthusiasm among demonstrators, and other dairymen who are prospective demonstrators. This meeting was attended by 161 members and guests, and immediately following the meeting, three new demonstrators were taken on. During the year, the number of demonstrators was increased from 50 with 1805 cows to 66 with 2251 cows. Our plan was to visit the demonstrators with the lowest production, in order to discuss their problems with them, and visit the new dairy herds beginning milk production. Time was set aside to visit the herds with the lowest production, and I believe these visits resulted in some changes being made in these herds.

Another part of our program this year was the Osher-Sampler testing, which is done by the D.H.I.A. supervisor.

using some more equipment. (News article attached.)

Poultry specialist from V.P.I. participated in four county community meetings to explain the inspection program now in effect at the processing plants and why some birds are condemned.

During the entire year, the County Poultry Extension Committee was very active and individual members brought out several valuable suggestions to improve the poultry program. At one meeting committee members proposed a plan for contract broiler production on a cost basis where modern housing and equipment would be financed under a plan which involved a processor, feed contractor, and producer jointly borrowing the money. The contract would include a retirement plan and profit sharing. The plan was for expansion on present poultry farms. The committee studied the plan, and proposed to present it to a few selected producers to determine acceptability, but, producers did not accept it, because of no assurance of labor income and the uncertainty of final ownership in case operation was not successful.

Later the basic ideas became a part of some contracts in which supplies, feed and chicks, were provided at costs to match labor and facilities of grower. Then profits are shared proportionally. Another variation of the plan was to provide loan to obtain feed and chicks for cash prices, but, grower responsible for other risks and receives profits.

During the past year, we have made some progress in poultry work, however, more time needs to be devoted to this phase of work. The County Poultry Extension Committee played an extremely important part in making each of the above activities a success. A special effort was made to be sure that each committee knew what they were to do and planned how it was to be done. The three county meetings were a success not only in attendance, but, in developing enthusiasm in improving efficiency. By working more closely with the feed and hatchery servicemen and by establishing the Minimum Standard Management Requirements, it has been possible to establish uniform recommendations on many problems and on management practices. Uniform recommendations have made it possible to reach more people because the feed servicemen and flock supervisors are also making these recommendations.

C. Dairy

Rockingham County ranked second in value of whole milk, and cream sold, and third in the value of whole milk in

dealers to display poultry equipment in a building close by the meeting hall.

The arrangements committee made arrangements for the meeting to be held in the exhibit building at the county fair grounds so that adequate space would be available for displays, the meeting, and also preparing and serving food to the people. This committee did an excellent job in providing heat and seating space in a building not equipped with these facilities.

The dinner committee arranged for and served a chicken barbecue dinner. The dinner was served at cost and most feed dealers and hatcherymen provided their customers with tickets.

We believe this meeting was very successful in building enthusiasm and getting some information to the people on the need for modernizing our poultry industry. About 1500 people attended this meeting. (News Article Attached.)

Another objective was to get information on growing pullets and managing the commercial flock to the commercial egg producers. The Poultry Extension Committee appointed a special committee to plan and organize this meeting.

The committee found many questions being asked on the use of modern housing, equipment, forced ventilation, and pit cleaners so more birds could be kept in the same space. Thus arrangements were made to tour two layer operations where two different systems were in use. Immediately following the tour, the group met at the county fair grounds and discussed managing the commercial flock, and had an egg and turkey sausage dinner. After dinner, the program committee arranged for a talk "The Egg and You", which gave producers information on the value of eggs and the need for more attractive marketing packages. The egg tour and meeting, which was attended by 50 producers, was successful in bringing information and ideas to persons interested in improving their efficiency of their layer operations and some changes have been made as a result of the tour and meeting. (News article attached.)

A part of our plan was to arrange for, and hold a turkey meeting at which special emphasis be placed on improving efficiency by the use of sufficient equipment and disease control. The program committee arranged to get Dr. Richard Eston from St. Louis, Mo. to bring this information to the group because he has conducted considerable research work in this field.

The turkey meeting was successful in convincing some growers that they could improve their efficiency by

by managers of the feed companies and hatcheries at a meeting held for this purpose. 2,000 of the leaflets were printed and distributed to producers by the organizations.

Another important part of our Extension Program was the shortcourse which was held for the poultry servicemen. With assistance of poultry department V.P.I., a special six weeks' training session was conducted to give servicemen basic information on poultry. Six three hour meetings were held at which the following subjects were discussed: Reproduction; Digestive System, Function & Disorders; Respiratory System and its Diseases; Development of the Chick; Mechanism of Control and Coordination; and, Stress and The Chicken. During September a two day training school was held with the assistance of the poultry staff from V.P.I. The servicemen held one meeting to get information on the poultry inspection program now in effect at the processing plants, and to explain what inspectors check for and why some birds are condemned. Poultry specialist from V.P.I., participated in this meeting.

The above activities with the poultry servicemen have been effective in providing the servicemen with information which has helped them make proper recommendations to poultry producers. Several servicemen have stated that the information has been helpful in their work.

2. Producers Program.

One objective set up in our plan was to hold one large producer meeting to maintain enthusiasm among the poultrymen and also interest them in modernizing their operations. The poultry committee made a special effort to organize this meeting so as to get as many producers as possible at the meeting. Five active committees were set up and assigned specific jobs to do. The committees included: 1. Program, 2. Publicity, 3. Display, 4. Arrangements and, 5. Dinner. Each of these committees held several planning meetings and devoted considerable time to preparing for the meeting.

The program committee planned the program on the theme of operating efficiently in light of present price situation and the modernizing housing and equipment for efficiency.

The publicity committee which was responsible for getting the people out to the meeting enlisted the help of the newspaper, radio stations, and the TV station.

The display committee arranged for poultry equipment

There is a need for a high money crop on small farms. Strawberry production was investigated in 1956, and we found a good market available, and a few individuals interested in strawberry production on a commercial scale. A meeting was held in the early spring to give persons interested in strawberry production information on planting, growing plants, and producing the berries. About 30 interested persons attended the meeting. About 7 of these people planted a commercial bed of strawberries and this past year at least 3 of these producers reported a good income from the strawberries. This year a special radio feature was prepared on one successful operation in the county in an effort to interest more farmers in using strawberries to increase their farm income.

We believe that more time should be devoted to this project as there is still a market for more strawberries and also a need for a high money crop on small farms.

B. Poultry

Rockingham County is the leading turkey producing county in the United States; and, also ranks 5th in poultry products sold. There are approximately twenty-four hatcheries and twenty-five feed and contracting companies operating in the county. During the past year there has been an increase in turkey production and commercial egg production, however, there has been some decrease in broiler production.

Many broiler producers have not found it profitable to grow broilers in the small houses which are not properly equipped. The average broiler flock size in the county is about 3000 birds and in many cases the producers are spending nearly 25% of their time caring for them. In other areas where the broiler industry is continuing to expand most of the units have a 10,000 capacity and are equipped with modern equipment and more of it.

1. Poultry Servicemen Program.

During 1958 the poultry servicemen participated in setting up goals and standards for improving the efficiency of poultry production in the county. The servicemen also served as members of several special Extension poultry committees.

This past year the servicemen formed an organization which continued to work with the county Extension Poultry Committee, and assisted in revising the "Minimum Poultry Standards". These standards were then discussed, and with a few revisions were approved

Fertilization recommendations of pasture and hay crops which were based on soil analysis, were discussed individually with about 250 farmers.

The results of the program to produce more and better forage are a little difficult to measure, however, many pastures are being improved each year, and the alfalfa, and the alfalfa acreage is increasing, which indicates that the more productive mixtures are being seeded.

Thistle Control.

A county wide thistle control program was set up through the county agronomy committee and the commercial companies handling weed killers. The first step was to notify the commercial companies that a special campaign would be conducted and supply them with information on the material which would be recommended. The campaign was opened by holding (2) demonstrations in opposite sections of the county, and a county-wide meeting. At both demonstrations, and at the meeting, special emphasis was placed on spraying at the proper time, and with the proper chemicals. A special card was then prepared and mailed to 1450 farmers giving them information on when to spray and the material to use. On these cards and in all the publicity, a special slogan, which was selected and adopted by the agronomy committee, was used -- "Rigger Profits and Better Pay, Spray Thistles Today". (Picture & News Article.)

The results were very good as we had large numbers of farmers that reported that this was the first time they had gotten satisfactory results by spraying. The County Agent's Office had a large number of phone calls regarding spraying during the period while the campaign was on, and the commercial companies which carry weed killers reported that they ran out of the chemical several times, and had to order more. We believe the program was successful, but that it should be continued another year.

Alfalfa Weevil.

Alfalfa weevil became a serious pest in 1957, and since that time it has been necessary to use chemicals in order to protect the crop from serious injury. In 1957 and 1958 from 90 to 95% of the alfalfa in the county was sprayed to protect the crop. During the past year special emphasis was placed on bringing farmers the latest information on new methods of controlling the weevil.

other products also contribute to the county income. There are six poultry dressing plants, a dairy processing plant, a livestock dressing plant, a fruit canning plant, several flour and feed mills, a fertilizer plant, and four lime plants. Other plants include apparel, rayon, fabric, yarns, excelsior, chemical, metal, furniture, cooperage, building blocks, and stone monuments.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. Agronomy

1. Forage (Pasture, Hay & Silage)

There is about 136,316 acres of pasture, 36,500 acres in hay crops, and about 4,159 acres of silage (corn and grass) in the county to feed 58,800 head of cattle and 22,000 head of sheep, plus 6,540 lambs. According to the yield in the county the past few years, these crops are providing sufficient feed to adequately feed about 42,000 animal units and there are about 55,700 animal units being fed. However, due to very favorable weather conditions this past season, sufficient feed is available this year to adequately feed the livestock.

There is still a need for more and better quality forage to properly feed the livestock in the county under normal weather conditions. About 50% of the pasture acreage does not have a desirable grass mixture at the present time, and about 70% needs fertilizer for good pasture production. Thistles are a serious problem in many of the most productive pastures.

The two objectives in our plan of work was to produce more and better quality forage and to get rid of the thistles. More and better quality forage could be produced by use of good pasture mixtures, and the use of better hay mixture such as, alfalfa, and orchard grass and proper fertilization. Thistles can be controlled by spraying in early spring with proper chemicals.

The most effective meeting held to emphasize more and better forage through better mixtures, and fertilization was held in conjunction with the county dairy school in March. We believe this meeting was more effective because the forage program was applied directly to the needs of the dairymen. In addition to the above mentioned meeting, the agent featured special publicity on developing winter pasture for dairy cattle and other livestock, and the conservation assistance available through the Agriculture Conservation Program.

1. COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

The County Organizations consists of the County Agricultural Board, Commodity Committees, 4-H Club Council, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Beef Cattle Sales Association, Shenandoah Valley Soil Conservation District, County ASC Committee, and Civic Clubs.

The County Agricultural Board is made up of 13 members representing the four major agriculture enterprises and one representative from the County 4-H Club Leaders. Three members are appointed each year for a three year term, one poultryman, one livestock producer, one dairyman, and one farmer interested in grain production. The three representatives from each major enterprise on the Agricultural Board also serve as a nucleus for the commodity committees. The Poultry Committee then consists of three members from the Agricultural Board plus representation from the feed dealers, hatcheries, processors, turkey growers, broiler growers, a commercial egg producer, a hatching egg producer, and a feed salesman. The other commodity committees are also made up of three members from the Agricultural Board and three other farmers interested in the respective enterprise. The commodity committees held meetings to study the county situation, and outline the county problems, and needs, and set up objectives which were incorporated in the "Long-Term Program", and "1959 Plan of Work". The Agricultural Board held meetings to review the overall county agriculture program.

II. TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

Rockingham County, located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, with Harrisonburg as the county seat, is the leading turkey county in the United States. The total population in the county is 35,070. 44% of these people are rural farms, and 56% are rural non-farms. There has been a decrease of 20% in the past 10 years in rural farm people.

The County is the third largest county in the State, with 556,160 acres of which 321,685 acres are in farms, the remainder is in national forests. There are 3,571 farms which average 84.8 acres.

The county, which is agricultural, practices a very diversified system of farming. There are four major sources of agricultural income: poultry which ranks first, produces over 65% of the income; livestock and dairy second with about 25%, and crops which includes fruit produces about 10%.

Processing and manufacturing plants of agricultural and

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

K. C. Peterson

Name

County Agricultural

Agent

Title

T. L. Holloway (deceased Oct. 22, 1959)

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent



1959

Rockingham

County