ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

G. L. JAMES
Extension Agent

Extension Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

Assistant Agent

1964

APPOMATTOX
County

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE
TABLE OF CONTENTS ____ 1
I. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT THE EXTENSION PROGRAM ____ 1
A. COUNTY ORGANIZATION ____ 1
B. CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY LOCAL LEADERS ____ 2
C. WORK IN LEADER SELECTION & ORIENTATION ____ 2
D. LEADERSHIP APPRAISAL ____ 3

II. MAJOR PROJECT AREAS: ____ 4
A. PHASE ____ 4
B. MAJOR EMPHASIS ____ 4
C. THE OBJECTIVES ____ 4
D. PROGRESS REPORT ____ 4

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREA ____ 9
A. PHASE ____ 9
B. MAJOR EMPHASIS ____ 9
C. THE OBJECTIVES ____ 9
D. PROGRESS REPORT ____ 9

III. REPORT ON PROJECT AREA ____ 13
A. PHASE ____ 13
B. MAJOR EMPHASIS ____ 13
C. THE OBJECTIVES ____ 13
D. PROGRESS REPORT ____ 13

IV. GENERAL APPRAISAL OF PAST YEAR ____ 16

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

I. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP

We must admit to the changes taking place in the County as to the people, their reasoning and action. However, many of the changes might be we are still dealing with people, in most cases the same people.

Whether the professional or lay leadership is at the head, or whether the people are moving in a group, propelled by a certain force, direction must be decided upon.

It is this pulse of reasoning and action that leaders must be constantly aware.

A. The following outline provides a quick survey of the County Organization and leadership involved in perpetuating the Extension program in Appomattox County.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

ADULT

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD
18 men and 18 women
representing 18 communities

Neighborhood Leaders
2 leaders to each Church Community
18 men and 18 women

11 Community Clubs
Average Membership 25

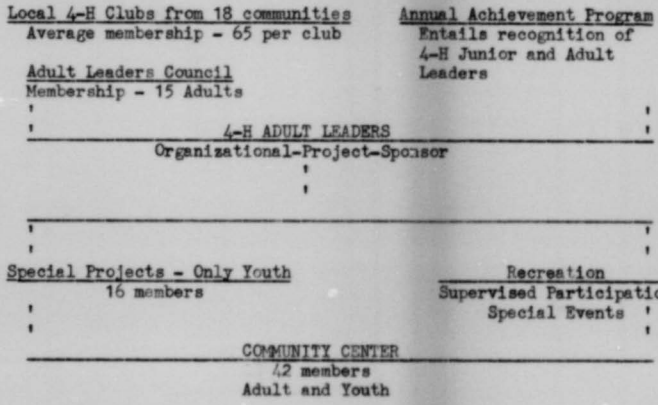
AGRONOMY COMMITTEE
12 members

204 farm operators; 106 farm owners; 9,095 acres Negro owned; 426 families rural and urban

YOUTH

COUNTY 4-H CLUB COUNCIL
8 members
3 adult advisors

5 ORGANIZED 4-H CLUBS
184 girls - 156 boys



B. CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY LOCAL LEADERS:

Adult Leaders were selected by the people, trained and informed by the Agent with supporting Aides and Specialist and provided information.

The following listed projects and activities were placed in effect and completed due to the cooperating local leadership.

(1) PROGRAM EXECUTION - steering committees, County Advisory Board, 4-H Adult Leaders, Agronomy Committee

(2) DEMONSTRATIONS - crops, livestock, housing, landscaping

(3) DIFFUSION OF INFORMATION - Civilian Defense, Social Security, control and irradiation of diseases and insects

C. WORK IN LEADER SELECTION AND ORIENTATION:

It was agreed and decided upon that our County Advisory Board and its organization be reorganized.

Previous selection of neighborhood leaders was made by persons in a given community and the Agent. However, a change in the method of selecting neighborhood leaders was hit upon and proved to be the best working idea to date.

There exist within the county eighteen church communities. The cooperation of the Minister and Officials was sought in asking that each church vote and select a man and woman to represent their community. The result was a young, active, working delegateship from the eighteen communities. The County Advisory Board was reorganized, officers selected, a program initiated. As a result this Extension sponsored organization has been revitalized and has accomplished more in three meetings than did the previous organization did in a five year period.

D. LEADERSHIP APPRAISAL

Local leadership is a necessary and vital implement in the execution of the county program for both adult and youth.

The lesson learned by this Agent is that new, young and qualified leaders are continually available. Also that former good leaders must be replaced, friendships and tenure does not necessarily constitute the make up of a good organization or program.

II. MAJOR PROJECT AREA:

A. PHASE: Rural Housing (Home Construction, Planning & Financing)

B. MAJOR EMPHASIS: - Due to the increase of family income, the availability of financing for small new homes and the desire of young families to secure a home, there is a definite trend in the county to new home construction with request from the Extension Service to supply available services.

C. THE OBJECTIVES: - To provide:

a. With selection of adequate and planned living space

b. Assistance in selection of building plan (blue prints)

c. Recommendations for plumbing and heating needs

d. Information and aid in financing (FHA)

e. Advising on insurance, ownership, wills and deeds

f. Information on landscape beautification

g. Supply and sewage disposals and water supply

D. PROGRESS REPORT: - The surge toward homebuilding and home ownership continues into its third year, within the county. Those seeking homes are in the $2500 to $12,000 bracket. The average cost of a home in the rural and village area is $5,000. Also there is the trailer home, which seems to meet the needs of the newly married couples.

The trailers are usually located on the parents land. In some cases an acre of land was purchased, cleared, with the plan in mind of future homesite. An estimate of at least thirty house trailers of new or near new condition exist.

a. Financing - As a general rule the Agent is requested to aid in some phase of the individuals building problems. Such request occur as: septic tank regulations, site, land purchase, estimates, plumbing, heating, insurance recommendations. Also inquiry about wells, springs, roads & grounds and landscaping. The most numerous would be methods of finance. All local forms of financing are reviewed as to availability to the qualified individual. Some company financing is compared, especially the prefabricated quick built homes. (These type predominate) due to type of financing. Farmers Home Administration loans are encouraged by the Agent as the safest and most desirable as to interest and quality of home constructed.

The homes built which have proven most unsatisfactory have been the quickly financed and quickly built homes. The problems have been in financing mix-up, misunderstanding of contract terms and quality of lumber used and poor quality workmanship.

However, these projects still continue to appeal to most of the people and they also exceed by a large proportion the number of conventional homes built. Low cost home prevail.

b. Methods Used - The encouragement of families to own or build their own homes is not a new recommended practice from Extension. However, the building boom in the county among both groups, was not inspired by our service. It is one of those developments that suddenly appeared and Extension has become a part of its demands. The services extended are:

Farm Home Plans(VPI)	Grading,walk and roads(SCS)
Building Problems(VPI)	Lawns, seeding and care
Health and Sanitation	Landscape (shrub and trees)
Heating and Fuel	Loans (FHA)
Building Site(location)	

In addition to the direct aids offered, as listed previously, individuals seek the advice of the Agent on the price of a home to suit needs and ability to repay. Also the advice on contractors as to bids offered and quality of work. Alteration of plans, as to costs or needs.

The Home Construction project is one that requires individual dealings as to needs and financing. The Extension Agent's services are governed according to the request made.

In relation to days worked by the Agent which was devoted to the phase of Rural Housing: Agricultural Engineering 11, Dwelling and Equipment 23, Home Grounds 40. This work is inclusive of planning, financing and landscaping activities.

c. Landscape Work - In addition to the services provided by the Agent within the ramifications of Home Construction, request for landscaping provide quite a workload for the Agent. Landscape work requires individual attention and services.

The method employed includes: a photo (before)scale drawing of home, drive & lawn area, a key system of shrub location with common and scientific names listed, with description, as to height, color and type added. This give the owner a guide for planting. This method provides owner and nursery dealer an understandable and working plan.

The local Sears Roebuck store has proven a boon to home owners in landscaping their respective home. The company provides reasonable prices, guaranteed product, easily available and quality shrubs for the money.

Lawns, shrubs and driveways (in this order) are major request. New lawns, reseeding and reclaiming old lawns require the personal attention and recommendations of the Agent. It is estimated fifteen to twenty of these projects occur during fall and spring seasons.

In addition to home owner's demands are the church's and school's landscape and lawn seeding request.

ie: The School's

- Athletic field seeding
- New school & playground area
- Bus parking & traffic circle (planned)
- Shrub pruning and replacement
- New bleachers(information)
- VPI & local contractors
- Teacher's parking area

The Church's

- Reclaimed lawn area
- New lawns seeded
- Cement walk & aprons (planned) (This work done under supervision of the Agent)
- Shrub planning & placement
- Renovating Church interior (adding rest rooms & etc.)

The resultant efforts of Home Construction and Landscaping is viewed with the utmost satisfaction by this Agent. It is a project that is a visual demonstration of effort by the people. It is evidence of pride in ownership, care and responsibility, that has not previously appeared among the people, as this Agent has worked in this area through the years. The element of indifference has been replaced by a new kind of vision.

II. REPORT ON PROJECT AREA: 4-H and Youth Programs

A. PHASE: 4-H Club Project Work

B. MAJOR EMPHASIS: Due to the consolidation of schools in the county, there was a marked enrollment loss. Older members dropped in membership and project activity. During the confusion of transfer the younger and new members did not enroll, as in previous years.

Emphasis was placed on the Market Pig project culminating with the Piedmont Youth Exposition; the Sears purebred Duroc pig chain.

The livestock project gives the members a live active project, plus individual attention. Further, the member moves from the group to the select few and he experiences the activities of Show, sales, Fair and become eligible for trips and awards.

C. THE OBJECTIVES: To increase 4-H enrollment and project activity by encouraging participation in livestock projects.

D. PROGRESS REPORT: The following events and activities were planned and executed with the resultant evidence of recovery and increase in 4-H club total enrollment.

Membership (1960-62, 251 members) at time of consolidation of County Schools.

Membership (1964-65, 340 members) enrolled.

The recovery period was a three year effort, accomplished with the cooperation of the Adult Leaders.

D. cont'd

a. Outstanding 4-H Members - Appomattox 4-H Clubs are honored with a State 4-H Club President, Gilbert L. James, Jr., elected to serve a two year term. Gilbert "Buck" James was selected as a delegate (one of eight) from Virginia to attend the first "4-H Citizens Conference" held at the National 4-H Center, at Chevy Chase, Maryland. Buck has been added to the "4-H Honor Club" for Appomattox County as its twelfth member of select and accomplished 4-H members. Buck is this year attending Va. State College majoring in Agriculture Education.

Two state award entries were made from the 1964 project year records. They are Simon Walker, a very creditable job with Market hogs and purebred Sow and Litter projects. Second, Stewart Robinson with an outstanding four year record, with his Duroc Sow and Litter project, also Stewart is President of the Junior 4-H Club.

County award medal winners were:

Achievement - Simon Walker
Achievement - Mary Webb
Leadership - Wanda Fleshman
Swine - Stewart Robinson
Tractor - Oliver Stith
Tractor - David Trent
Leadership - Joan Walker

The four 4-H Adult Leaders receiving 15 year pins and awards were:

Mrs. T. W. Hamlett
Mrs. E. T. Williams
Mrs. M. T. West
Mrs. O. W. Smith

b. Livestock - The purebred Duroc pig chain (Gilts) continues to be the most attractive and successful project, production-wise, since it was initiated in 1947. Eight 4-H boys and girls are involved in raising and or producing litters from this project for 1964.

Nine boys completed the Market Pig project (of 16 enrolled) and exhibited and sold fifteen animals averaging 185 lbs. at the Hog Show and Sale event held in August annually.

Fifty-three 4-H members have enrolled in swine projects for the 1964-65 club year.

All of the County 4-H members receiving County and State awards and Delegateships and top honors have been swine project members.

c. Events - The Nineteenth Annual 4-H Achievement Day Program was held at the high school auditorium. The program was attended by over 300 persons. Delegates from the Short Course, Wildlife Camp and outstanding project work was reported. The feature report was of our delegate attending the Citizenship Conference in Washington, D. C. A color slide picture tour of the event was presented by the delegate.

The highest state honor was reported - that of having a State 4-H President elected, which made three State Presidents our clubs have produced.

The Eighth Annual Tractor Clinic was held in Appomattox on the High School campus. Eleven counties were represented by twenty-six 4-H project members in addition to Leaders and Agents. The winners competed for State Championship in June. First place was won by Willie Warsham of Amelia County.

In correlation with the Health and Safety phase of 4-H a rally for sales of "Toothbrushes and First Aid Kits" was launched. This rally project involved the total cooperation of all 4-H members and adult 4-H Leaders. The profit was used to purchase girls 4-H uniforms, T-shirts (for special events), song books and supporting funds for delegateships to State 4-H events.

Other local activities include: Demonstrations, Rural Life Sunday, Camera Club (19 members), Enrollment rallies, 4-H Fun Night, 4-H Exhibits in local stores and 4-H scholarships to college bound senior members.

III. REPORT ON PROJECT AREA: Agricultural Production

A. PHASE: Adult Work

B. MAJOR EMPHASIS: - Each year there are fewer full time farm operators, due partially to participation in the crop retirement and control program of (corn, wheat, tobacco). As a direct result, livestock population has decreased also. Forestry products (pulpwood and mine prop lumber) still maintains its former standing. Request from Extension vary also with this accepted change.

C. THE OBJECTIVES: - To adjust and gear the Agricultural Production program to meet the needs of the part time farm operators.

D. PROGRESS REPORT:

1. Corn - Two cooperating farmers Mr. William Ferguson of Oakville community and Mr. Lacy Webb of Vera community were selected to run corn demonstration plots on fertilization, sponsored by the Plant Food Institute of North Carolina. Results as follows:

Mr. Ferguson - used Pioneer 312 A, 40 inch rows, 9 inch row seeding
Soil Test - p^H - 7.0, Phosphate - L, Potash - M
Dem. Plot - Lime - 0, Nitrogen - 60, Phosphate - 106, Potash - 86 (Broadcast 500 lbs. plus 160 lbs. - 40% phosphate)
Check Plot - Lime - 0, Nitrogen - 52, Phosphate - 62, Potash - 62
Yield - Demonstration plot - 110.3 bus. per acre
Check plot - 81.9

Mr. Webb - used Pioneer 312 A, 40 inch rows, 10 inch row seeding
Soil Test - p^H - 6.0, Phosphate - M, Potash - M^+
Dem. Plot - Lime - 0, Nitrogen - 95, Phosphate - 74, Potash - 74 (Broadcast 500 lbs.)
Check Plot- Lime - 0, Nitrogen - 6, Phosphate - 36, Potash - 36
Yield - Demonstration plot - 96.0 bus. - Check plot - 75.9 bus.

2. Poultry - Houstan West of Stonewall community, formally raising broilers up to 15,000 birds per eight week period has changed over to raising pullets for commercial laying flocks. At present he has 6,000 pullets ready for sale to Producers who are replacing their laying flocks. This is West's first batch of laying pullets. The Agent and VPI Specialist helped in the transfer of this project activity, as to change of feeding and weight conversion. The largest new problem over the broilers was debeaking and vaccination, required for layer pullets. West's contract calls for his realization of 1¢ per bird at 12 weeks for his share of the labor and use of the buildings.

The outcome of this venture will be compared with the broiler production as to which is the most favorable enterprise, as to labor return and profit.

Mr. West is now in the process of cementing the floor of one of his 32' x 150' poultry houses. All information for this project was secured from VPI Engineering Specialist Mr. G. D. Kite.

3. Poultry - Mr. George Scruggs of Vera Community has planted 2500 pine seedlings over past three year period. Excellent stand and growth.

Six hundred pine seedlings were distributed to project members this year.

IV. GENERAL APPRAISAL OF PAST YEAR:

Housing, whether new or remodeled, low or medium cost, prefab or conventional, is the biggest group trend to take place in Appomattox County. Today the low income group have a better opportunity to realize their goals and needs of better housing and creature comforts.

It must be admitted that many farms are no longer actively worked. The people of all ages men and women and the youth have turned to public salaried jobs.

One considered fact is to be considered, the orignal former farms and farmland is not being sold, in many cases not even rented out. People are retaining the land, improvements have been evident in repair and maintenance of the home and outbuildings. There is no sign of a trend to leave the farm or farm home. In many cases married sons and daughters have built their homes on the family farm.

This Agent is of the opinion that the people are going through a period of change, which will probably result in an entire change in attitudes, goals and needs. Exactly how Extension will fit into the end result, remains to be seen.