

#295

VIRGINIA

Augusta County Agent Report
1922

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Augusta Co *Coast*
County Organizations.

For the past three years the farmers of the County have been organized under the charter of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union, but have failed to increase their membership and do much constructive work locally. I have tried every year to get them to prepare a programme of work and to try and follow it, but have failed. This year I did get the executive committee to adopt one which called for the working of the organization to improve the quality of field seeds used and produced in the County and for the organizing of a live-stock shipping association. The live-stock shipping association was organized and a manager and board of directors appointed, and this was the end of any cooperative live-stock shipping in spite of the fact that two local clubs made every effort to get something tangible started.

As an organization the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union is a failure in Augusta County.

Out of this organization the Farmers Cooperative Union Inc. was organized to do cooperative buying for the members and this part has been and is a

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success, but in reality it is not even a part of the Farmers Union. This cooperative end have three stores in the County and do wholesale buying for the farmers and members in the County, in addition to carrying on a general retail business in farm supplies. If it were not for this cooperative buying, we would have no general farmers organization in the County, or one that existed in name only. The cooperative business has a tendency to keep the general organization together in a way.

The membership is around 300 and we have about 4000* farmers in the County. Membership includes, farmers, wives and children, but they do not attend meetings to any extent.

There are two farmers clubs affiliated with the Farmers Union, that are striving manfully to really do something. These two clubs are the Middlebrook and the Fishersville Clubs.

In addition to the Farmers Union, I have an agricultural advisory board composed of the leading and progressive farmers of the County, who help prepare the County plan of work for the County Agent. This organization really functions and is of the greatest help to me in my work. I have tried to get the Farmers Union to function in some such

way, but it seems to fail to see that this is a part of its mission. The main trouble is, that the Farmers Union is composed largely of non-progressive farmers and the more progressive farmers do not care to affiliate with it.

This year we got the fruit growers of the County organized into a really splendid organization. The fruit growers realized that the County Agent could not give them the special attention that they wanted and needed, so they started their organization out with a membership fee of fifty cents per acre for bearing, and twenty-five cents per acre for trees under 10 years of age, with a maximum fee of \$25.00 and members signed for a period of three years. This appealed to the growers and large percentage joined and a good live executive committee was elected to carry on all necessary business.

With the funds secured, an assistant county agent was employed, who looks after the horticultural work in the County and helps with other lines of work as well. The growers are well pleased with results so far, and they have a plan of work based on a three year period and at the present rate this organization will have accomplished some splendid work in that period.

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Some of the things called for in this programme are, the elimination of the cedar trees of the County, that are causing an annual loss of at least a quarter of a million dollars in the County, because of the serious damage they do to the York variety of apple, to work for the establishing of standard grades and pack, community packing houses, a state apple marketing association and the production of better fruit.

We also have a number of boys and girls agriculture clubs in the County and they are doing good work. So far, we have found that we have better clubs where both the boys and girls compose the membership. Up to the present we have included members of the various clubs, such as pig club members, baby beef club members, poultry club members, sewing club members etc., in local agriculture clubs, but for next year we want to confine local clubs to one project as pig club, beef clubs, etc., as local conditions seem to demand.

Milk Marketing Organization.

Having learned through other organizations that in order to market any product cooperatively, successfully, at least 60% of the product in question in any given territory must be guaranteed the association before it can successfully bargain and make contracts for disposing of the product involved, The Valley Milk Producers Marketing Assn. proposed getting at least 60% of the milk cows of Rockingham County signed up before attempting to market the milk for the producers.

The dairymen of Rockingham County were not getting and had not been getting for some time a price for their milk and cream on the local market, that they thought they deserved in comparison with quoted prices in other parts of the County, so they proposed organizing an association for the marketing of milk and cream. No sooner did they begin thinking the matter over seriously than they realized that they would have to have the dairymen of adjoining counties in their association in order to protect themselves in their own markets.

Calling on the State Extension Division for help in the matter, the Extension Marketing Specialist looked over the territory and found that the dairymen were not getting a fair price for their product and also found that if the dairymen

of Rockingham and Augusta Counties alone formed an association, they need not fear local creameries or dairy companies would try and get milk or cream from adjoining territory because of the lack of railroad facilities. Consequently only Rockingham and Augusta Counties were considered at the start.

Contracts were gotten out by the State Extension Division, and were placed in the hands of the County Agents, of Rockingham and Augusta Counties, who in turn put them in the hands of interested dairymen. Meetings were held over both counties and an intensive campaign made to get at least 2500 cows signed up by March 21, 1922, otherwise the proposition would be carried no further. Prices were not so bad in Augusta County, but there was considerable complaint among the dairymen about weights and tests and the move was hurried in order to remedy conditions in Rockingham County as soon as possible. The required number of cows, and then some were signed up by March, and the association formed with a representative number of directors chosen from each County, and the campaign to secure more signers was carried on, as it realized that 2500 cows was not 50% of the cows of even Rockingham County.

A manager was secured and began work to try and sell the milk for the Rockingham dairymen. Considerable trouble was experienced at first as the association did not know really

just what per cent of the cows were signed for in the association and neither did the dairy companies that were operating in Rockingham County. In a few months though each knew that at least half and probably more were represented in the association and the creamery accepted the association's proposition.

The dairymen of Rockingham County bought the plant of one concern who in turn buys all of the association's milk and cream, on a flat rate and the association handles the milk as directed.

The association has been able to raise the price of milk for the producer three times since it really began functioning and the price to the consumer remained the same. Producers who before the association was formed were getting \$1.15 per cwt. for their milk, are now getting \$1.60 with good prospects of another raise soon. (Nov. 30)

Nothing had been done in Augusta County excepting getting members in the association until the first of Nov., when a new dairy company desired to begin operating here.

A cream receiving station ~~wanted~~^{has} to be located in the County and the company wanted to deal with the association.

So far the association has made no contacts

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The manager and local directors met Nov. 11, but no deal was made as the association had no definite knowledge as to how much cream could be supplied. It was finally decided to find out how much cream would be available and the association would be prepared to make some definite propositions to the new company, Nov. 25th. Practically all of the milk and cream in Augusta County is now being purchased by the Richmond Dairy Co., which has two plants in the county. One located at Waynesboro and one at Staunton. This concern has always paid a fair price, but as I stated previously, there has been considerable complaint about weights and tests. Plans are now being made for the association to sell all of its milk and cream on the associations weights and tests, and we hope to be doing this by Jan. 1, 1923.

We have all of the large herds in the County in the association and have at least 50% of the milk signed up in the association in both Augusta and Rockingham Counties.

Cooperative buying and selling.

It would be well nigh impossible to report the buying and selling prices of each commodity. In this report, as the cooperative association has three stores at different points in the county and it handles nearly every thing that is used on the farm or in the farm home. It would take entirely too much time to go over the books at all three places and find the buying and selling prices, so all that I can hope to do is to give the approximate amount of the general commodities handled during the year, the value, and the saving to the farmers.

Instead of the farmers making orders by elabo the members place their order with one of the stores and the general manager or attends to the ordering and the product is handled thru the store.

Selling is also done to some extent thru the local stores of the organization, and such sales will be entered in this report separately. Result of business done thru the county cooperative association for 1932.

ARTICLE	QUANTITY	VALUE	SAVING
Fertilizers	5850 Tons	\$105,000	\$15,000
Feeds, Mixed	1000 "	48,000	1,000
Packages	15 "	750	100
Hardware		1,000	150
Farm Seeds, all kinds	80,000 bucs.	50,000	8,500
Salt	500 Tons	18,000	500
Binder Twine	30 "	6,500	1,500
Feeder Twine	585 "	1,500	500
Household arts.		5,000	500
Totals	6500 Tons 80000 Bucs.	\$219,650	\$21,450

Farmers sold cooperatively thru stores-

Hay and Straw	1500	50,000	3,000
Eggs & Poultry		8,500	550
Smokes, sold and bought locally		8,500	500
Grand total-----		\$224,650	\$25,000

The above statement is of the actual business done thru the cooperative association. thru the stores the organization was able to keep the price of the products handled by the organization down to a reasonable price thruout the county. The organization sold about 50% of all the fertilizer sold in the county. As near as we can determine there was about 16,000 tons sold in the county and without question the organization was able to keep the price of fertilizer down at least \$2.00 per ton. On this basis the organization saved the farmers of the county about \$30,000 on fertilizer alone. On the same basis feeds and seeds about \$15,000.

Summing up, the saving to the farmers, members and non-members of the county we find that the organization accomplished the following-

Saving on articles bought direct-----	\$21.450
Made on articles sold -----	3.550
Saved farmers indirectly -----	\$45.000
Total-----	<u>\$70.000</u>

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What Demonstration Work Has Meant To Augusta
County In Dollars and Cents.

1 9 2 2.

Cooperative Buying and Selling -----	\$70,000.00
Boys and Girls Club Work -----	1,800.00
Corn Demonstrations -----	1,000.00
Soy Beans -----	20,000.00
Wheat -----	750.00
Forage and Grazing Crops for Hogs -----	2,000.00
Cow Testing Association -----	7,500.00
Farm Building and Home Improvement -----	5,000.00
Buying and Selling Livestock -----	1,500.00
Improvement in Livestock in County -----	2,000.00
Improvement in Grain Crops in County -----	5,000.00
Grubard and Horticultural Work -----	10,000.00
Use of Lime from Local Sources, saving in freight. --	5,000.00
Using Fertilizer by Analysis rather than name --	4,000.00
Home Grown Feeds, Rather than expensive concentrates -----	5,000.00
Total -----	\$125,550.00

Can

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This year I was able to arouse some interest in the importing of the corn in the County and to introduce in one or two communities an early maturing variety. When the season for growing the varieties commonly grown in the County matured too late, it often being dried before it was mature.

I was also able to get three or four men to plant under an alfalfa sod and to plant corn on it and the results were very gratifying indeed. One field needed to ~~be~~ produced 15 tons per acre, the other two that reported got 14 ~~quarts~~ or tons per acre.

The farmers of the County are beginning to realize that it pays to fertilize and to cultivate more carefully than has been the practice in past. Those who are paying more attention to fertilizing and cultivating, are setting good examples for their neighbors who are gradually falling in line with their progressive neighbors methods.

There are too many varieties being grown in the County for maximum production and to keep true varieties pure. Efforts are being made to eliminate the low yielding varieties and to establish four or five high yielding and adapted varieties. One may see, doing this is the growing of certified seed corn and we have limited the number of varieties to five. Only communities in which one variety is well established are growers allowed to grow corn for certification. This helps to prevent getting the variety mixed and certified seed growers encourage their neighbors to grow the variety common in the community.

Farmers are also advised against buying seed of so called new varieties from seed houses as they are generally disappointed in results, and it often reduces the yields of neighboring fields of an adapted variety.

Plans have been made to put on an active campaign for 1935 to improve the corn crop of Augusta County. So far, no special effort has been made to do this.

WHEAT

This was the first year that any special effort has been made to really improve the wheat crop as a whole, in the County. Last Spring I had the Extension Agronomist here and we held a series of meetings over the entire County. Considerable interest was aroused and farmers began making inquiries as to when they could get good pure seed wheat. Upon investigation I found that the only really good pure seed that was available was twenty bushels of V.P.I. 2130, which was developed from Fulcaster. These twenty bushels were proportioned to eight growers who agreed to have the wheat kept pure and inspected under the rules of the Va. Crop Improvement Assn.

In addition four farmers had selected enough heads from their own fields to seed from a half to one acre.

One farmer had 135 bushels of good seed that was practically pure and he sold out almost over night and turned down orders for several hundred additional bushels. I firmly believe that if it had been available, at least 10,000 bushels of good seed wheat of known purity, could have been sold in the County this Fall, and I feel that the demand was due largely to the work done by Mr. Wyster and myself in the Spring and early summer through our meetings.

Beef Cattle.

Not as much work has been done with beef cattle as was planned for in our 1923 plan of work. However, we were able to get some real worth while work done. We were able to place six pure-bred registered bulls to head herds that had formerly used grades. Also to have three or four breeders get better bred animals to head their herds than they were then using. Also we have been able to get some breeders to get some really fine bred heifers and cows and as a result the breeders have a better class of live-stock now, than they had a year ago. This is especially true of the Shorthorn breeders.

The County Shorthorn Association sold two of the real good animals to boys for baby-beeves, at market price, and when they sold at the State Fair they brought the top price, 14¢ per pound. One weighed 1100 lbs. and one 1105 lbs. and were around nineteen months old.

The County Shorthorn Association also held their annual sale, and sold some very good animals at a good price. The class of animals sold this year was much better than ever before. Mr. J. P. Keene, Extension Animal Husbandman, selected the animals from the

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different herds of the County.

I want to state here, that Mr. Keane has been responsible for much of the improvement in the beef cattle here, as he has always been more than willing to do his part.

An Angus breeder sold six Angus calves weighing around 550 pounds, to six boys in his community for baby heaves at \$50.00 per head. The conditions were, that the boys were to feed them until the first of October, and he would buy them back at 12¢ per pound and the boys were to have all they made in premiums. Needless to say, the boys made a nice profit and the breeder lost around \$50.00 in cash, but gained in popularity and respect.

A Shorthorn breeder told a club boy that if he won at the County Fair with the calf, he was selling him, he would give him \$10.00. The boy got the \$10.00.

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Mr. N - - owns a small dairy near Staunton but does not take much stock in county agents, or did not until this year. He was up against it for forage for his cows as he did not have sufficient pasture for them or land enough to raise hay and forage to run him through the winter, by following the old established rule of raising timothy and clover. He came to me in May and asked what he could grow on 25 acres of ground that would produce at least 30 tons of good rough feed for this winter, stating that he was then plowing the land to seed to something. He asked about Canadian Field Oats and oats. I told him to seed three acres immediately to peas and oats as he stated he would have to use a part of what ever he sowed to supplement his pasture during the summer, or that he would need about three tons of some soiling crop. I advised sowing the remaining 22 acres to soy beans and sudan grass. Knowing the man, I knew it would be the middle of June before he would get the 22 acres seeded, and I was a little skeptical about him raising 30 tons on 22 acres. However, I got him some Dept. inoculation and he got the seed and got them all in, by the latter part of June.

It was a dry season and the peas and oats did not field very well, but Mr. N - - - was apparently satisfied and thought his cows did well on them. A few days of rain in July helped the beans and Sudan grass and he was immensely pleased when he cut them in September, and the 22 acres yielded at least 40 tons of excellent hay. He also, on my recommendation, sowed about an acre and a half of Va. variety soy beans for seed and they also yielded well, making about one and a half acres.

Mr. N - - - told me that under no consideration would he have sowed this mixture except I recommended it, and he did it on my say so and faith in God that he would get something.

He is pleased with results and says I have helped him immensely this year and that he will continue to ask for advice.

Changing Attitude

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In October 1931 a large delegation, probably 350 or 400 farmers met at the Court House in Stanton to appear before the County Board of Supervisors to speak for and against continuing the offices of County Health Officer, Home Demonstration Agent and County Agent. Of the number expressing themselves for and against, it was about two for to one against. The radicals seeing the sentiment was against them, began circulating petitions to abolish the three offices. Some good farmers signed some of these petitions and because of these men signing, those who wanted to see the work continued, asked me to visit some of the good farmers who were opposed to demonstration work.

I went to see a very intelligent farmer who had repeatedly said that the County Agent had never been of any service to him now could he see how he could help any one else. When I visited him he was getting ready to seed an acre of good land near his barn to oats. I talked with him awhile, letting him do most of the talking, however, and I presently asked him why he didn't sow that acre to soy beans. He at once wanted to know what for. I told him about soy beans and also about certified soy beans and the Va. Crop Improvement Assn. He immediately became interested - agreed to buy a bushel of certified seed, asked me to get him the inoculation, and was real enthusiastic about it.

I visited him about six weeks later with a representative of the Va. Crop Improvement Assn. and this representative said he had the finest acre of young soy beans he had ever seen.

The beans were certainly fine when they were in bloom, but a very severe hail storm about cleaned them up for fair and Mr. Corbin thought they were ruined and they did look like it. I advised letting them alone as I felt they would make at least ten bushels of seed even in as bad condition as they were. About a month later I went with inspector to inspect them and they looked better than I had expected and the pods indicated a yield of around fifteen bushels. Hail again, but did not do nearly so much damage as the first time.

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The beans were harvested and when threshed out and cleaned yielded $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels.

This little demonstration has been the means of getting t is man interested in certified seed production and instead of his being a knocker for demonstration work, I feel he will be a booster, and he seems to be taking more interest in his work.

WHEAT

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Community Building

Four years ago when I first came to this County, I attended a meeting at Middlebrook and the crowd was greater than the capacity of the building in which the meeting was being held. At that meeting I spoke of the advantage of community buildings and suggested that the people of the Middlebrook community, commence thinking about such a building. Later a Farmers Club was organized there, but like a flower planted in poor soil, it started out beautifully, but gradually wilted, starved and died. I then got a live boys and girls club started there, but because of the lack of a suitable place to meet, interest in it died. I then began work on reorganizing the farmers club, but met with little encouragement. I judge that within the last four years I attended two dozen farmers meetings and the attendance at them was always small, an average of eight or ten present, but little interest shown. However, I never ceased to keep talking community building for all this time, the meetings were being held in a lodge room and a charge was made for the use of this room or hall.

The first part of this year a local farmers club was re-organized and to my astonishment it made progress and finally it affiliated with the County Farmers Union. It has continued to grow in membership and to be a factor in the community, but the charge of \$2.50 per month for the use of a room for its meetings caused some of them to really begin thinking of a community building.

A few weeks ago a Community League was formed and as the high school building did not have an auditorium or gymnasium, some of the most interested members of the League and Farmers Club conceived a plan of getting the local school board to help build a community and school building. The following terms were finally agreed on. The people of the community to raise \$5,000 and the school board would give \$10,000 to be paid in two years and the people of the community to build a building suitable for school entertainments and the school pupils to have the use of the gym. However, the building was not to cost over \$15,000.

Work is now underway on the building

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After the school board had made their proposition, a meeting of the community league was held and it accepted the school board's terms and passed a resolution that no one would be permitted to give over \$300.00 in raising the committee \$5,000. Solicitations at the meeting began and the \$5,000 was subscribed before the meeting adjourned. However, the league determined to raise at least \$7,500 and made \$10,000 their goal.

I made a short talk at their regular weekly meeting and the subscriptions had reached \$7,700 before the meeting closed. I was requested to get help from the extension dept. in helping the committee get suitable plans etc. for the building.

In talking over this matter the other day with one of the men of the County, who attended the farmers meeting at Middlebrook four years ago with me, he told me that when I mentioned a community building he thought I was a fool for sure, and that he thought such a thing would never be, but that it sure did look now like I was not as big a fool as he once thought.

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Hiram Arey joined the pig club at Centerville and was fortunate enough to get a really fine pig to start with. Hiram attended all the club meetings and was selected along with three other boys to attend the State Club Short Course at Blacksburg.

The boys from the Centerville Club came over to Staunton to take the train when they left for Blacksburg and Hiram was trying to look unconcerned, but how would you act if you were to take your first ride on a train to-morrow? Hiram was to get on something, at Staunton for the first time, that he had often seen and heard, a railroad passenger train. It was the big event of his life.

Hiram exhibited his pig at the Staunton Fair and got first premium. He sent it to the State Fair at Richmond and got second prize in the Poland-China class.

Here was a boy that had never been on a train until he became a club member and the first year won a prize with his pig in the club exhibit at the State Fair.

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Ted Fix, a boy of 16 years was in club work three years ago and took an active part, although the club members in his community were scattered and no real club meetings were held, but Ted attended the county club camp and impressed everyone with his personality and well behaved manner. I visited Ted that year and found that his father had died some years ago and he had only his Mother to direct him. She is all that anyone could ask for in a Mother.

The next two years Ted did not join the club and as his Mother had moved to a near by small town where a good high school was located so her children could have the advantages of attending high school. Ted became acquainted with and got to associating with boys and young men whose influence were not of such a nature to command the respect of the good folks of the community.

Last winter I took it upon myself to write Ted a long letter, asking him what his ambition in life was, and if he would take charge of the boys and girls agriculture club, if the Home Demonstration Agent and I would organize one, and I also asked him if he would see if he could work up a club in the high school.

It seems that some very influential people of the community learned of my letter to Ted and they also spoke to him of the good things he would derive from the club work. Ted finally wrote to me saying he believed he could get a club organized and if I felt that he was capable of being club leader he would try it.

We got the club organized and elected Ted president and club leader. He at once became interested in the work and the principal of the high school said he seemed to take more interest in his studies.

The Greenville Club was one of the best in the County. It raised money and sent four of its members, Ted being one, to the Boys and Girls State Club Short Course at Blacksburg.

Major C. S. Reller, President of the Augusta Military Academy, offered a working scholarship to the boy who did the best club work in the County. Ted began working for this as soon as I announced it. As soon as school closed Ted wanted to go to work and asked me about a position in Norfolk. I advised against it and told him to try and get

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Work on a farm in his community, and asked him to see the leading and most progressive farmer and business man there and to tell him what he is trying to do. He got work of this man who made a place for him and worked hard all summer.

He was a member of the county live-stock judging team that went to the State Fair at Richmond and he made a good showing for the little training that he had had.

After checking over all my club boys, I finally recommended Ted to Major Roller for the working scholarship. Major Roller investigated Ted pretty thoroughly and had it not been for his good work and becoming associated during the year with the better families of the community, he would not have gotten it, but one or two who had known Ted for several years recommended him very highly, and he finally was accepted by Major Roller. Major Roller gave him along with one of the elder students a room in his own home where Ted will come in contact with culture and refinement. Ted's ambition is to become a doctor of medicine.

One thing above all I noticed about Ted and his friends; those who were undesirable began to associate less and less with him during the year and he gained many new and desirable associates. In fact he was looked up to by many before he left for school who had a year ago considered him not quite their equal.

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**SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF ASSISTANT COUNTY AGENT
W.S. CAMPFIELD.**

From March 1, 1922 to Dec. 1, '22

Visits to demonstrators, farmers, etc.-----	673
Letters written, regular, -----	370
-----	300 ceps
Office Consultations,-----	670
Miles Traveled, R.R. -----	640
Auto. -----	5800
Total	<u>8143</u>

Horticultural Demonstrations.

Spraying,-----	15 Direct
	100 In "
Packing -----	4
Thinning -----	15
Banding -----	1
Total Direct	<u>35</u>
" & In "	135

Magazine Articles,-----	10
Newspaper -----	51
Total	<u>61</u>

Meetings Attended -----	65
Addressed -----	65
Attendance at all meetings -----	4400

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Narrative Report of Assistant County Agent,
V.S. Campfield.

The assistant county agent did not enter upon his duties until the 9th of March 1922. His first activity was to strengthen the county organization of fruit growers which was done thru a membership drive that increased the number of members to 130, including most of the important growers of the county.

April 18 and 19 the assistant agent cooperated with the local banks in entertaining bankers from the east while the apple trees were in full bloom. Between 35 and 40 representatives of the larger banks of this and adjoining states, including the Chase National of New York City, arrived on a special pullman. The object of the two day ~~business~~ meeting and auto tour was to bring to the attention of the financial institutions the wealth producing importance of the apple industry and to establish in their minds the need for greater orchard credit. Also to convey to them and to convince them that the orchard industry as now carried on according to the approved methods of the State and National Extension Service should be considered as a safe industry entitled to greater credit consideration.

The Assistant Agent conducted the field trip during the two days which covered the more important apple growing sections of Augusta, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Frederick counties. Undoubtedly the apple growing belt of this and adjoining counties received more favorable attention by the bankers and financial men thru this trip than any other means in its history and it has resulted in the more favorable consideration of orchard loans.

A spraying programme was suggested inaugurated based on the spray schedule put out thru the spray service of the Extension Division, horticultural department, of Blacksburg which service was extended to every member of the organization and thru a series of 15 articles or more local newspaper articles it was given to all the fruit growers of the county. Better and more spraying was accomplished this season than ever before. Severe demonstrations were conducted in orchards in various parts of the county according to schedule which proved ~~that~~ beyond question that insects and diseases can be controlled to a very satisfactory degree. In the orchard of H.B. Spraul near Middlebrook is a block of old Winesap which have been in the past so badly affected with scab that Mr. Spraul had determined to cut them down. He advised the assistant agent that he would leave them for one more year for a demonstration of better spraying. The schedule was followed very closely using summer strength lime-sulphur and later Bordeaux mixtures as a fungicide. Up until late in July no scab appeared then an unusually late infection infection took place which resulted in some scab in parts of the orchard but on the whole the Winesap crop was very free of scab and was the finest crop that had been known for years in that orchard. Mr. Spraul announces that he is convinced that scab can be controlled and has decided not to cut the Winesap block of trees as he had intended.

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The severe frosts late in April killed much of the apple bloom of this county, resulting in not over 10% of a normal crop. Thus the plans for cooperative grading and packing were not attempted this season.

A careful survey showed that the most important problem of this county is cedar rust and that this year with the short crop the loss due to cedar rust was not less than 50% of that escaping the spring frosts. Augusta County packed out not more than 25,000 or 30,000 barrels while all estimates placed the crop at from 50,000 to 75,000 barrels before cedar rust damage became apparent.

A normal crop for this county would have been 400,000 barrels had there been no frosts. It has been estimated ~~that~~ conservatively that the damage caused by cedar rust in this county during normal years amounts to not less than \$500,000.

The Assistant Agent through the cooperation of the Augusta County Fruit Growers Association determined on cedar cutting campaign that would eliminate the cedar tree from the apple growing sections of four of the six magisterial districts in the county. The assistant agent made a very careful survey of the sections to be cleared and gathered information on property covering about 115,000 acres from which the cedars must be cut. It was found that while a large amount of cedar cutting had been done heretofore that it had not been thorough and that the expected results had not been realized because of the lack of organized effort. It was found that no portion of the county was entirely free from cedars. In fact no orchard has been found but that cedars growing within a mile of it.

A comprehensive campaign has been carefully organized covering the 115,000 acres including about 500 farms and the work of cutting is now under way. It will require several months to complete the work. The Assistant agent is the directing hand of this work in all parts of the county. The actual cutting is under the charge of reliable interested fruit growers carefully selected for each district. The district foreman has charge of the cutting crews and his work is to see that they cover every part of their allotted territory, thoroughly, and to go ahead of the cutters and interview the owners of the farms on which the cutting is to be done.

Thus far the cutting has been done with a minimum of discord the non-fruit growing land owners cooperating in a most splendid manner, far better than had been hoped for. It has been learned that this cooperation on the part of land owners is due largely to the business-like methods ~~shown~~ and thoroughness of the campaign. Many say that if the object of the campaign is to completely eliminate the cedar from all the farms of their section they will not object but on the other hand will cooperate. Many non-fruit growing land owners are volunteering to cut their own cedars.

In planning the cedar eliminating campaign it was deemed advisable to arouse sentiment to the extent of the damage done by the cedars and the need for drastic thorough action. The assistant agent went before the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs of Stanton and asked them to join the fruit growers in an auto tour of the apple growing sections of the county and to meet at sunset night at a joint supper. This they very enthusiastically agreed to do. Invitations were extended not only to fruit growers but also to public officials and non-fruit growers. A long procession of autos were in line and made the trip. After supper speakers from the Extension Division, and from Frederick County of this state where the cedars had been cut and the results plainly determined, discussed the problem fully and urged concerted action. On the whole the affair was a big success and no doubt was the starting of the biggest single movement for the improvement of the apple industry of the county that has ever been undertaken. The results in the present cedar cutting campaign that is now fully under way covering the largest area of land that has ever been attempted in the state, and with as little opposition as could be expected from land owners not interested in fruit. The newspapers and business men and bankers of the county are strongly behind the movement and are exerting every influence to bring about county wide cooperation. Next year the results can be told in figures.