

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

COUNTY AGENT WORK

IN

PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY

FROM

DECEMBER 1ST, 1952

TO

NOVEMBER 30TH, 1953

John O. Hart, County Agent

Dick Cockrell, Assistant County Agent

Joyce L. Saunders, Secretary

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PREFACE

On July 1, 1953 I assumed the duties of County Agent for Princess Anne County upon the retirement of H. W. Olin. This report, therefore, will combine the activities for both of us during this 12 month period.

It is no small job to try to step into the shoes of a man that has been doing an excellent job of County Agent work for 35 years. As a matter of fact it is impossible to continue the program just as it was. During the five months that I have been County Agent, I have spent most of my time trying to learn what has been done in the past and continue these different phases of the program with only small changes in the previously established pattern.

The only significant addition to the County Extension Program that I have attempted to make is an expanded publicity coverage. Soon after assuming the duties of County Agent in July, I contacted the two County Papers; and have written a weekly news article for them since that time. Also feeling that radio was an important means of teaching and reporting, I purchased a Tape Recording Machine during September with the help of the County Board of Supervisors. WAVI, one of our Portsmouth Radio Stations, has set aside weekly time for our County Program on Fridays from 12:00 - 12:30 P. M. We have had six programs so far, and the response is very gratifying. I have also tried to cooperate closely with WTAR - TV in their efforts to produce a weekly TV Extension Program. I have had one program so far, and other programs are planned for the coming weeks. This TV Program is a combined effort on the part of the Agents from five of the nearby Counties.

1953 Program of Work, Princess Anne County

One of the most valuable pieces of work accomplished through the services of H. W. Olin as County Agent here in the County was his establishment of the County Board of Agriculture. The benefits of which are helping me a great deal in planning my activities as his successor. The County Board of Agriculture is made up of farmers, extension specialists, interested businessmen and other agriculture advisors meeting annually in commodity groups to plan the activities for the County Agent and his Assistant in each particular phase of the County Extension Program.

The Annual Meeting of the Princess Anne Board of Agriculture was held Friday, January 23, 1953 at Kempsville High School. The 12 Project Committees worked on their respective Programs from 4 until 6. After a nice banquet provided by the Princess Anne County Farm Bureau the entire Board met in the auditorium to hear the different committee reports and to adopt the following Plan of Work for 1953.

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

EXTENSION WORKERS

- 1. PLAN - For the County Extension Workers to meet at least once a month for the purpose of discussing:
 - A. The County Extension Program in general.
 - B. The County wide 4-H Program.
 - C. Coordinating the work among the personnel to avoid duplication.
 - D. Plan meetings on a County wide basis that are of mutual interest.

COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

- 2. PLAN - To hold one general meeting of the entire board during the year for the purpose of:

- A. Project Committees working on a Program for their particular project.
- B. Adopting a County wide Program of Work for the year.
- C. To hold Project Committee Meetings from time to time throughout the year.

COUNTY FARM BUREAU

3- PLAN - To cooperate fully with this organization by:

- A. Attending the Directors Meetings and acting as Advisor to the Board.
- B. Assisting with the educational part of the program on a county-wide basis.
- C. Assisting in the educational program of the Association of Virginia Potato and Vegetable Growers.

FIELD CROPS

CORN

PLAN -

- A. To work for an increase of corn production in the County by improving methods of fertilizing and cultivation.
- B. To furnish all Corn Growers with a list of recommended Varieties and recommendations for best methods of fertilizer, planting and cultivation.
- C. To invite all Corn Growers to attend the Tidewater Field Station at Holland for the purpose of studying performance of the different corn hybrids.
- D. To recommend the use of a winter cover crop to be used for the purpose of conserving plant food and soil improvement.

SOYBEANS

PLAN -

- A. To organize a Soybean Growers Club for 1953.
- B. To stress the importance of soil testing for higher yields.
- C. To conduct a Varietal Demonstrations in order to determine best varieties to use in this County.
- D. To furnish all Soybean Growers the names of recommended varieties and best fertilizer and cultural methods to use in producing higher yields of soybeans.

PASTURE

PLAN -

- A. To set up fertilizer and top dressing demonstrations on different farms throughout the County with Highway frontage.
- B. To encourage the planting of sufficient pasture for both summer and winter use for all livestock.
- C. To furnish all farmers with recommendations of seeding and fertilizing both summer and winter pastures.
- D. To conduct a pasture tour of representative pastures in the County.
- E. To encourage the use of pasture mixtures adapted to this area.
- F. To promote an Agronomy Livestock School for the County.
- G. To encourage more utilization of the soil testing services offered by Virginia Truck Experiment Station and VPI.

FORESTRY

It is believed that the woodlands of Princess Anne County play an important part in its economic structure. However, many of our woodlots are badly neglected. Management practices should be encouraged to assure future timber production. The forestry committee recommended that Demonstrations be conducted to show good forestry practices from an economic standpoint. The following practices are therefore recommended:

- A. Encourage planting where needed and the removal of inferior trees in existing stands.
- B. Make better use of timber from our own woods.
- C. Provide for restocking after harvesting.
- D. To encourage the planting of pine seedlings on marginal areas of the County.
- E. Cooperate fully with the Virginia Forestry Services in their Fire Prevention and Control Program.
- F. Encourage the preservative treating of lumber and fence posts on the farm.

SOIL CONSERVATION

PLAN - To work with the Board of Supervisors of the Soil Conservation District and assist in extending this program to every farm in the County, by:

- A. Showing the importance of proper drainage, use of lime, fertilizer and cover crops for higher crop yields.
- B. Supplying more information to farmers on proper use of liming materials.
- C. Encouraging more widespread use of soil testing services.
- D. To encourage farmers to make greater use of rotation cropping.
- E. To encourage the converting of our heavier soils into pasture.

HORTICULTURESWEET POTATOES

PLAN - The Sweet Potato Committee believing that high prices will prevail again in 1953 for this crop and therefore, an acreage increase for sweet potatoes to be stored for the winter, and spring market is recommended. The committee felt that a ten per cent increase was warranted where proper storage facilities were available. The committee recommends that the following program with sweet potatoes be conducted.

- A. To encourage the use of well drained sandy soils for sweet potato production.
- B. To supply the farmers with latest recommendations on cultivating, fertilizing, harvesting and curing, working in conjunction with the Virginia Truck Experiment Station.
- C. To recommend the construction of more storage where suitable land is available for sweet potato production.
- D. To encourage the use of certified seed when they can be secured of suitable varieties.
- E. To treat bedding stock for disease prevention.
- F. To plan at least four sweet potato meetings during the year to stress seed treating, seed selection, harvesting, grading, marketing and storage.

POTATOES

PLAN -

- A. To encourage a ten per cent acreage increase where potatoes can be dug by the 15th of June.
- B. To encourage the use of the soil testing services for the proper use of lime and fertilizer.
- C. To encourage the adoption of a two or three year rotation for potatoes which will include at least one winter cover crop.
- D. To encourage the close checking of all machinery for proper seed and fertilizer applications.
- E. To work in conjunction with the Truck Experiment Station through farm demonstrations for the use of early varieties and cultural practices.

TRUCK CROPS

PLAN -

- A. To maintain the productivity of the soils by the use of cover crops and rotation.
- B. To promote larger production of: okra, squash, eggplant, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes and cantaloupes for the local market.
- C. To extend our marketing outlets to the West and South, rather than depending entirely on Northern markets.
- D. To assist the Virginia Truck Experiment Station in locating Variety Demonstration. Also stressing weed and pest control, harvesting, grading, and packaging.
- E. Realizing the value of organized groups in solution of problems of marketing their products, it is recommended that growers keep in close contact with the Association of Potato and Vegetable Growers to the fullest extent.
- F. Encourage growers to add their names to the mailing list for the Virginia Vegetable Growers News, issued monthly by the VPI Extension Service of Virginia and the Virginia Truck Experiment Station.

LIVESTOCK

DAIRYING

PLAN -

- A. Use DHIA members as demonstration farms for improving dairying practices.
- B. Hold dairy school on production and management problems.
- C. Use VPI recommendations for fertilizing and management of good pasture with a thought for irrigation where economically feasible.
- D. Encourage more 4-H members to carry pure bred dairy calf projects.
- E. To encourage all dairy farmers to use good bulls in their dairy operation for the purpose of raising better replacements, and where necessary make use of artificial breeding.

OTHER LIVESTOCK

PLAN -

- A. Encourage more emphasis on cheaper sources of feed.

- B. Tour a beef cattle operations of the County in conjunction with pasture tour.
- C. To supply all livestock farmers with latest recommendations on parasite and disease control.
- D. To conduct field meetings on proper techniques of inoculating hogs against cholera, other diseases and parasites.
- E. To schedule a sheep shearing demonstration and assist in wool marketing where possible through a wool pool.
- F. To make a study of livestock marketing facilities of the County with the purpose of attracting a larger and better auction market.
- G. Realizing that economical livestock production depends on good pasture, all farmers should be supplied with latest recommendations on pasture seeding and fertilization methods.

POULTRY

PLAN - The Poultry Committee recommends that a goal of a Farm Poultry Flock be established for each farm family in the County to be fed and managed according to approved practices. The program to be carried is as follows:

- A. Start with chickens suitable for intended purposes; if for egg production, use egg producing strain and same for broilers.
- B. Buy only the number of chicks that can be properly housed and fed.
- C. Encourage all flock owners to supply adequate floor space for chicks and layers.
- D. To encourage proper feeding practices according to the latest recommendations from VFA.
- E. To encourage the use of home grown feeds where possible for economical production.

4-H CLUB WORK

PLAN - The following program is recommended for 1953 by the 4-H Committee:

- A. To organize eight 4-H Community clubs.
- B. To encourage additional leaders to conduct project work.
- C. To divide 4-H Clubs where the membership is too large in order to give more individual attention.
- D. To add more projects adapted for members not living on farms.
- E. That the 4-H County Council hold two meetings a year. First - fall meeting to set goals for the club year. Second - spring meeting for the purpose of making plans for the closing of the club year.
- F. To strengthen and provide a more adequate recreational program.
- G. To add, and sponsor, the revival of the 4-H Honor Club for the County.
- H. To hold an Achievement Program at the end of the club year.
- I. To work for 100% completions of all members starting.

APPROVED BY COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
JANUARY 3, 1953

Chairman, J. W. Potter

E. R. Cookrell, Jr., Assistant Co. Agent

John O. Hart, County Agent

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

The "County Board of Agriculture" of Princess Anne County as I have mentioned previously, was established by H. W. Oalin, retired County Agent. This organization heads up the Agricultural Extension Program in the County. It is an extension organization with members made up of farmers, extension workers, and other professional people including county banker, and local minister.

This Board is divided into twelve Project Committees who make and approve the Plan of Work for the County Agent to be executed during the coming year on a County level.

At their meeting on Friday, January 23, 1953 the twelve different committees met with specialists and other advisors to work on the Program for their particular project. After dinner a report was read by each project committee making recommendations for the Agent's activities for each phase of the Program. The combined report is included making up our Plan of Work for 1953.

EXTENSION WORKERS

The "Extension Workers" of Princess Anne County serving during this twelve month period were H. W. Oalin, retired Agent; Miss Jane Craig and Mrs. Elizabeth D. Deal, Home Demonstration Agents; Dick Cookrell, Assistant Agent; and myself. Since assuming duties as County Agent in July, I have had frequent conferences with the other two Agents in an attempt to coordinate our efforts and to discuss both adult and 4-H problems of mutual interest. These meetings are held to avoid overlapping of our time and efforts.

COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Princess Anne County Farm Bureau is our only County wide farm organization. Farm membership in the Farm Bureau consists of approximately two hundred and twenty five farm families. I have tried to cooperate fully with this farm organization as an advisory director of their Board. It is most important at this time for our farmers to organize actively and have their problems represented on a National level. I feel this organization is making efforts to strengthen it's activities, and I am working closely with them as time will allow.

Our County Farm Bureau, cooperating with four other County Organizations, composes the membership of the Association of Potato and Vegetable Growers. This Association is strongly aware of the problems of our County Vegetable Growers and is representing their interests on both a local and National level.

RURITAN CLUB

There are three Ruritan Clubs here in the County, and whenever possible I am assisting in coordinating the activities of these clubs with our County Extension Program.

The Princess Anne Ruritan Club has actively sponsored both 4-H and adult projects. This club has acted as the over-all sponsor for the County 4-H Baby Beef Project, and has also assisted with our 4-H corn project and our adult Soybean Growers Club. This club seems to be actively interested in assisting any of the

Extension Projects that they are called on to assist with.

Both the Kempsville and the Greeds Ruritan Clubs, though small in membership, have also cooperated whenever possible with County Programs. All three have helped with our 4-H Achievement Night.

TYPE OF AGRICULTURE

While the population of Princess Anne County is still rural to a large extent there are rapid changes taking place in the Bayside, Lynnhaven and Kempsville areas. Farm after farm is being converted into housing projects. The County is located in the extreme Southeastern corner of Virginia and averages about twenty-five feet above sea level. The soils of the County are of three types; Sasafra, which is a well drained sandy loam, comprises about 30 per cent of the crop land area; Portsmouth and Norfolk soils, which are well-drained fine silk loams, compose about 25 per cent of the land area; and Bladen, which is a stiff poorly-drained soil, makes up the rest of the land being utilized for farming.

Due to the fact that we have three very different types of soil the types of Agriculture are also varied even within this small County. Our commercial Vegetable Growers are located in the Kempsville, Lynnhaven and Ocesana Sections of the County, usually on Sasafra soils. The Portsmouth and Norfolk soils are suitable for a few of the commercial vegetables; potatoes, strawberries, corn and small grain. The majority of the farms of the County having a Bladen soil are suitable only for the production of corn, soybeans, and pasture.

From a financial standpoint the cash crops grown here in the County in 1953 would rank as follows as to their economic importance: Corn, Soybeans, Commercial Vegetable, Irish Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Strawberries, and Small Grains. In addition to the crops mentioned above, Livestock Farming has gained considerably in economic importance. Hog production is still the most important as practically all of the farmers are raising some on a varying commercial scale in utilizing the large corn supply. Poultry is another important phase of our Farming Program as the large majority of our County farmers produce either poultry, turkeys, or eggs for either home use or sale.

Dairying is another important enterprise in our County. We have approximately fifty-eight dairys including both large and small herds. The county of Minnesota here in the County represent over half of the total number of dairymen. However, most of their activities are on a small scale. The average number of milking animals on these herds is about twenty-five.

There are also about 3000 head of Sheep and about 14 herds of Beef Cattle here in the County. The production of both are becoming more important each year. As the reader will note, the Agriculture interests of this County are necessarily varied, and therefore makes it some what difficult for the Agent to emphasize any one phase of the Program too strongly.

AGRONOMY

The Extension Program of the County in Agronomy includes work on all field crops and pastures with particular emphasis on corn and soybeans.

CORN

At the meeting of the County Board of Agriculture the Corn Committee feeling

that the Corn Growers Club had accomplished its purpose, decided to discontinue the Growers Club for 1953. However, they recommended strongly that the Agent continue to publicize the valuable information gained during the three years that this club was actively organized.

Princess Anna County was fortunate during the growing season of 1953 in that it had sufficient and timely rains to insure normal corn yields. However, the Hurricane which struck our County during September left the corn fields in a serious condition. Our farmers were able to raise a fair corn crop; but due to this storm, many bushels were left in the field in the harvesting operation. Where normally corn harvesting is completed by the last of September; many of our farmers this year were still harvesting in November.

In our attempt to furnish County farmers with the latest information on corn hybrid seed, fertilizer application and land preparation, various circular letters, bulletins, news articles, and personal visits have been employed to do the Extension job. It was unfortunate that the "Field Day" at the Tidewater Field Station in Holland, Virginia had to be called off due to rain during August. Many of our County Growers took the time individually to visit this Station and inspect the Hybrid test plots and other corn demonstrations being conducted there.

SMALL GRAIN

The County acreage of small grains has been increased yearly as these crops serve to do two jobs at one time. With increasing interest in cover crops, small grains are being employed for this job giving ground cover during the winter months and at the same time they are being used on a cash crop basis. Oats and wheat are of the most economic importance in our Small Grain Program. With the high cost of commercial feeds, coupled with the increased interest in livestock production there has been a considerable increase of small grains in the County.

Assistance to our County Growers has been given through office calls, bulletins, and news articles.

SOYBEANS

The County Board of Agriculture recommended that the activities of the "Soybean Growers Club" be continued during 1953. Fifty-three farmers were enrolled in this club having as their purpose to increase the County level of Soybean Production from less than twenty up to the forty bushel mark. The Soybean Growers Club in their efforts towards this goal have encouraged the introduction of new varieties, use of certified seed, and proper application and use of fertilizer.

During March all Soybean Growers of the County were encouraged to participate in the activities of the Growers Club. Each farmer that signed up was invited to a "Kick Off Banquet" given by Davis Brothers Grain Company. M. P. Lacey was the principal speaker at this meeting, and he outlined many of the new cultural practices being employed both here in Virginia and other States familiar with the production of soybeans. After taking soil samples of each field entered in the contest, recommendations were made to each farmer for seed varieties, row spacing, lime and fertilizer requirements. During October, all fields were measured to be sure that the contest results would be accurate. This was fact done because many of the "farm maps" were out-dated as to field acreage.

Correct harvesting methods are another important phase of Soybean production. All of our farmers were encouraged to take special precautions in adjusting their combines to avoid waste and cracking of the beans.

The methods that were used in distributing information concerning Soybean production were office calls, circular letters, bulletins, news articles and personal visits.

PASTURES AND HAY CROPS

More and more emphasis is being put on an adequate "Pasture Program" for the individual farmers of the County. The acreage of Alfalfa, Lespedeze, Ladino Clover, and Orchard Grass has increased considerably during this past year. Our farmers are realizing that an adequate Pasture Program goes hand and hand with the livestock business.

Ladino Clover - Orchard Grass Pastures have increased throughout the County in spite of the problem of "bloat". The Pasture Committee of the County Board of Agriculture advised that emphasis be placed on seeding and fertilizing both winter and summer pastures. Numerous news articles have been written during the year covering the various phases of proper Pasture management.

Lespedeze has proved very satisfactory on all soil types of the County. However, alfalfa production is centered in the Sassafras areas of the County. The production of this crop is of extreme importance to our Dairy Farmers. In general, Ladino Clover and Orchard Grass Pastures are being found best adapted to general farming conditions. More feed per acre is being produced from this type pasture under heavy grazing conditions. However, Ladino is not standing up through prolonged drought conditions. We still need emergency pastures such as Sudan or Lespedeze for the dry years.

SWEET POTATOES

This crop is of economic importance to a large number of farmers who own land suited to the production of a high quality product. Therefore, the Sweet Potato Committee, of the County Board of Agriculture feels that this crop should continue to occupy an important place in the Extension Program. Much of my activities have centered around the harvesting and storing of this crop. At a County wide meeting early in the Spring specific information on selecting and treating seed for bedding; proper analysis and amount of fertilizer; and methods of storing, curing, and grading were brought out by representatives of both the VPI Extension Service and the Virginia Truck Experiment Station.

About 80 per cent of all the Sweet Potatoes grown this year have been put into curing houses rather than being sent directly to market. There are now over seventy individual modern Sweet Potato Curing Houses here in the County.

During harvest time I assisted with a meeting of Sweet Potato Hill Selection. This is one of the most important methods of increasing the quality and quantity of our Sweet Potato crop. We have found that we must depend on our own potatoes for bedding stock. Cork is an example of one disease that has been brought in by going to other sections of the country for foundation stock. By using Hill Selection and Vine Cuttings, our farmers will increase the production of a disease-free, quality product. After completing this meeting on Hill Selection, we made our first tape recording for radio broadcast outlining the different phases of this important selection work. Even on a small scale any Hill Selection that is done will produce results for future years.

IRISH POTATOES

Potatoes that a few years ago dominated as a cash crop for Princess Anne County are on the way out. This condition has resulted from the high cost of production and the uncertainty of a profit. Due to increased acreage this year very few of our farmers made enough to pay for seed and fertilizer. Indications are that a continued decrease in acreage will result in future years.

At a County Wide meeting held during the spring specialists from both VPI and the Virginia Truck Experiment Station made recommendations for the use of the new Pungo Variety. They also suggested the proper analysis and amounts of fertilizer.

HORTICULTURE

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

With the exception of tree fruits, potatoes, and sweet potatoes, practically all of the work and demonstrations conducted with the vegetable crops are supervised by the staff from the Virginia Truck Experiment Station which is located here in this County. However, I have helped with the educational features of this Program through farm visits, bulletins and news articles.

STRAWBERRIES

The Virginia Truck Experiment Station is continuing its experiments in the testing of new Strawberry varieties. These experiments have yielded results during the past year with the release of a superior variety, the Pocahontus. I have cooperated with the Truck Experiment Station in the distribution of the few plants available for planting next year.

The importance of the production of Strawberries here in Princess Anne County is dependent on the labor situation. There has been a continual decline in acreage during past years and 1953 plantings have again been reduced, due to the lack of labor.

VEGETABLE GARDENS

Vegetable gardens for family use were again given an important place in the County Extension Program. All rural, as well as urban people living in the County, were urged to provide for and plan to have a Home Garden. Our County Board of Agriculture stressed the importance of this work, and urged the members to push garden work in the different communities of the County.

Timely information was furnished, and cooperation given in controlling insects and diseases in our vegetable gardens throughout the summer.

POULTRY

The farm flock is of great importance in Princess Anne County. We have only two or three farmers producing poultry on a large commercial scale. However, the majority of our farms have small flocks ranging in size from 50 to 500 birds. This income derived from market eggs, hatching eggs, and broilers serves to augment farm incomes, and therefore takes a position of importance both economically and educationally. In addition to the production of chickens, there are also many small flocks of turkeys, ducks, and geese.

The Poultry Committee of the County Board of Agriculture stressed the importance of improving poultry production in the County through demonstrations and other educational means. An informal Poultry Flock Improvement Program was again organized this year. Mr. Harry Moore from the VPI Extension Service visited about 25 farm flocks during the early spring and made suggestions for improvements that could be made both in management practices and improved facilities. During August these farms were visited again to determine any progress that had been made. In many cases there were noticeable improvements, and the results of this project are most encouraging.

With the high cost of commercial feeds it is most important that our Poultry raisers utilize as much home grown feed as possible. However, as there is no substitute for laying mash our farmers have been urged to do a thorough job of culling. Many of our flock owners are practicing a weekly program of flock culling. These men have already learned to do this necessary job. However, two culling demonstrations were conducted during the summer to teach any others interested.

Disease control of poultry has also received considerable attention from the County Agent this year. A considerable number of flocks have been treated for Chicken Pox, Coccidiosis, and worms under my direction. A demonstration was held during August to teach the proper method of vaccinating for Chicken Pox using the Web-Wing treatment.

Numerous news articles have been written on both disease control and proper management aimed at the farm flock owner.

DAIRYING

Of all of the Dairying sections of the state, the 53 Dairy farmers of Princess Anne County are in one of the most ideally located positions. All of these farms are within a 15 mile radius of one of the best milk markets on the East Coast. Norfolk, being a deficit area in the production of milk depends on the import of milk products from 200 and 300 miles away. Our Princess Anne County Dairymen are in a position where they receive more for their milk delivered because they do not have to deduct the high shipping charges from their prices received.

Our dairy farmers have other advantages also in that they are close to the source of many of their necessary supplies. Some of these are: fertilizer and lime, manufactured feedstuffs, and mechanical equipment.

The major drawback to a successful dairy enterprise in this County is the lack of good labor. Not just anyone can do the job of milking and handling dairy animals. The competition for good labor is very keen, and therefore our dairymen are forced to pay high salaries to keep their men. The Naval Installations in the Norfolk area force our farmers to pay competitive wages. However, many of our farmers are attempting to solve this problem by utilizing as much family labor as possible. This is particularly true of the Minnesota farmers who comprise over half of the dairy farms of the County.

I have attempted to work closely with our dairymen since becoming Agent. Various news articles, bulletins, and personal visits have been employed to do the extension job. I have worked closely with the DHIA and Artificial Insemination Programs, realizing their great value to our dairying success. Our Princess Anne members of the DHIA have consistently lead the Association during the year. The Association is made of 16 dairies from Princess Anne, Nansemond, and Southampton Counties.

Last winter we conducted a dairy school at Kempville High. At that time Bob

Connelly and M. F. Ellmore covered such subjects as DHIA Records, Feeds and Feeding, and Pasture Management. Our farmers were so pleased with the program that we set about planning a bigger and better meeting for this December. This proposed Dairy School will be a cooperative effort on the part of these five nearby Counties. A comprehensive 2 - day Program is being planned with the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce acting as sponsor. Our dairymen are actively interested in their extension program as shown by their support of these two Dairy Schools.

OTHER LIVESTOCK

1953 has been another year of increase in our County livestock numbers. Even though the prices of beef cattle are considerably below that of 1952 there has been a steady increase in quality breeding stock that has been brought into the County. Hog numbers have remained high throughout the year also. Sheep production is also on the increase. The Expanded livestock business here in Princess Anne can be attributed to the increased interest in both winter and summer pastures.

SWINE

The County Agent's Program has centered much of its activities during the year on proper feeding and management in our Swine production. Numerous news articles and personal visits have also been employed in an attempt to teach proper Disease Control. This office has continued to supply the farmers of the County with serum and virus to be used in preventing our most serious hog disease, Cholera. At this time there seems to be no other suitable method of providing our farmers with these serums. However, except through demonstrations, in which we have taught the proper method of vaccination, there has been practically no hog treating done by the County Agents during this past year.

Due to the large number of garbage feeders using waste materials from the Military Reservations here in the Norfolk area we have continued to recommend the use of the serum and virus treatment. A few hogs have been treated with the new Modified Virus in the case where they are grain fattened. These farmers using this new treatment seem well satisfied with the results.

Our County Pasture Program has continued to bring results through the use of Ladino Clover Pastures in supplementing the needed protein for our hogs. With the "Corn - Hog ratio" favorable to the sale of corn through livestock, hog numbers have continued to rise during the year. And with allotments on our corn crop in 1954 we are recommending strongly that more corn be sold through hogs. The major problem facing many of our hog raisers is that of adequate fencing.

SHEEP

Sheep numbers here in Princess Anne County are also on the increase due to the improved Pasture Program. The relatively high lamb prices are continuing to encourage our farmers to increase flock numbers.

Much of my attention during the year has been in controlling the internal parasite problem which is so important in sheep management. Many of our flock owners are now on a year around drenching Program. Another problem facing our flock owners in this County is the lack of available men to do the sheep shearing work. During March we had a County Wide Demonstration on sheep shearing and though the attendance was small those that did attend seemed well pleased with the idea of learning to do this job themselves. I also helped other sheep raisers secure men to do the shearing job for them. We hope in the coming year to train

some of our 4-H club members to do this sheep shearing job on a custom work basis.

BEEF CATTLE

As I have already mentioned many of our 14 beef cattle raisers have secured quality bulls during this year. Princess Anne County was included this year for the first time in the Petersburg Feeder Calf Sale. The 12 steers marketed from this County sold for a high average at this Sale and by stimulating interest in future sales, we hope to show the farmers the need for paying more attention to quality foundation stock for their herds.

The 4-H Baby Beef Program has done our County beef business a great deal of good from the teaching standpoint. Many of our beef raisers are learning proper management and feeding from the results of the boys beef projects.

FARM LABOR

Princess Anne County farmers growing intensive acreage of such crops as Soybeans, Commercial Vegetables, Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes that require large numbers of laborers to harvest. In normal times this labor force is recruited locally, however, with high industry wages it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain a sufficient labor force for the harvesting of these crops. Therefore, our farmers have turned to migrant laborers to do these jobs.

The Naval Installations here in the Norfolk Area are making it highly competitive to obtain more labor. They are forcing our farmers to pay high wages for these workers. This, therefore means that the acreage of crops requiring a large number of workers are declining in their economic importance for the County. In assisting our farmers with securing migrant laborers a meeting was held in the early spring with the Virginia Employment Service, who outlined the situation to the farmers. The Pungo Labor Camp has been used during the summer to house about 1500 of these migrant workers.

AGRICULTURE PLANNING

As mentioned before the Agriculture Planning for our County Extension Programs is conducted by our County Board of Agriculture. This meeting results in the over all yearly Plan of Work. Additional meetings are held of the different commodity groups to plan for any special activities such as our Soybean Growers Club.

Planning Meetings are also held among the County Extension Workers to coordinate our activities in the execution of the different Programs.

FORESTRY

The Forestry Committee has outlined a Program that will bring about more forestry improvement work on the farm woodlot basis. Forestry continues to hold an important place in our Extension Program, and this work has been done through news articles, and personal visits.

One of our farmers who is doing an excellent job of managing his farm woodlot has been recommended during the year for the Virginia Tree Farm Award.

4-H CLUB WORK

So far in this report the reader might think that the Extension job being done here in Princess Anne County was a one man proposition. This, however, is untrue. The 4-H Program being conducted here in this County is both active and beneficial to the over all Program. The accomplishments made through 4-H club work can be attributed greatly to the efforts of my Assistant County Agent, Dick Cookrell, who has spent the majority of his time since July in developing this part of our Extension Program. Therefore the following report included will be that of the Assistant Agent.

There were eight 4-H Community Clubs organized in Princess Anne County in 1953 which had the following enrollments: Courthouse Junior Club, 44 members; Creeds Junior Club, 53 members; Bayside Junior Club, 54 members; Oceana Junior Club, 55 members; and Kempsville Junior Club, 78 members. Of the five Junior Clubs in the County there was 284 4-H club members enrolled. In the Senior Clubs, Kempville Club, 130 members; Creeds Club, 41 members; and Oceana Club 24 members. In the three senior clubs there were 195 Senior 4-H members. This makes a total of 479 boys and girls enrolled in the eight 4-H clubs in Princess Anne County.

4-H COUNTY COUNCIL

The 4-H club organization, on a County level, is known as the 4-H Club County Council, the members of which are made up of the Extension Workers in the County, the local 4-H club leaders, 4-H club sponsors, officers of the eight community clubs, and the adult 4-H committee. This organization is directly responsible for all County 4-H programs that regulate the activities of the community clubs, and offers a cup to the club, senior and junior, that turned in the best report for the year's work. This year, the club winning the senior cup went to the Kempville Senior Club, and the junior cup was won by the Courthouse Junior Club. The activities of each will be listed later in this report.

Since I came to Princess Anne County there has been one meeting of the 4-H County Council. At this meeting, the members prepared the Achievement Night Program in detail. At this Council Meeting it was evident that the 4-H club is the member's club, organized by them. The leaders, sponsors, and the three Extension Agents act only in the capacity of guidance and advisory. The next County Council Meeting will be held in December to plan the 1954 year's work.

ADULT 4-H COMMITTEE

The Adult 4-H Advisory Committee sponsored by the County Board of Agriculture is made up of the following personnel: A high school principal, a county minister, a mother of 4-H club members, a father of a 4-H club member, a 4-H club boy and a 4-H club girl.

This Committee meets with the County Board of Agriculture and adopts suggestions for the year's program. Later at the 4-H County Council Meeting these suggestions were adopted by the County Council.

4-H CLUB ALL STARS

The 4-H All-Stars of this County held two meetings during 1953 in an attempt to organize their efforts in assisting the County 4-H Program. Miss Cora Marie Blackmore was elected as their Chairman, and they have already shown signs of wanting to help with our different projects. There are approximately 15 All-Stars living here in the County, and we hope through this organization they can be of great value both to our club members and to club work in general in the future.

PROJECT WORK

As project work is the back bone of all 4-H work, emphasis on this phase of the program is stressed with care when a boy or girl enrolls as a club member, and they are urged to select a project that fits into the farm and home, and in their community, and if possible one that will be profitable, either from an economical standpoint or home and community benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements and special activities of the 4-H clubs in Princess Anne County for 1953 are outstanding and show the following results: 80 club meetings in 8 clubs. These club meetings were divided in three parts, business, program, and project instruction. At 50 of the 80 club meetings a program was given by the 4-H members proclaiming some phase of 4-H club work. At 5 of the club meetings refreshments were served. One club gave a reception for the three Extension Workers in the County. On a County average the clubs had about 87 per cent attendance at all meetings. Several of the clubs had tours, trips, swimming parties, theater parties, skating parties, covered dish suppers, and many other social activities.

Several of the clubs prepared and presented programs for P. T. A.'s, Student Bodies, and other groups. Thirty-five members chartered a bus and attended State Fair on 4-H Day. Seven clubs put on a Rural Life Sunday Program. Thirty-seven 4-H'ers attended District Camp at Camp Farrar, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Ten members and 2 Extension Workers attended 4-H Short Course in Blacksburg.

The total results of the entire year's 4-H activities were brought clearly out at our County Achievement Program held November 23rd. At this meeting seven clubs gave a report of its year's activities. This was done through plays. All awards for the year were announced and awarded, and which consisted of 23 county medals, 48 ribbons, and \$372.00 worth of prizes to members carrying county agent's projects. The majority of the prizes were given in the form of scholarships to Short Course, Conservation Camp, and District Camps. In addition to these awards listed above, H. W. Ozlin, retired County Agent in Princess Anne County, presented to the most outstanding Senior boy and girl, and to the most outstanding Junior boy and girl a trophy set up by him. This trophy will rotate on a one year basis. Along with the cups presented, the Kempsville Senior Club won the senior cup for most outstanding work and the Courthouse Junior club won the junior cup for doing the most outstanding work among the junior clubs. Along with the other activities seven clubs put on an exhibit showing what their club has done in project work and extra 4-H activities.

SPECIAL PROJECT WORK CONTEST

- 1 - Sears 4-H Garden Contest - Sears-Roebuck and Company gave \$60.00 to members excelling in garden projects.
- 2 - Princess Anne Farmers Service - Gave \$25.00 to 4-H Poultry Project members doing best work.
- 3 - Princess Anne Ruritan Club - Gave \$50.00 to 4-H Corn Club Members who made the highest yield per acre.
- 4 - Farmer's Potato Distributing Company - Gave \$25.00 to members of the Entomology Project who did excellent work.
- 5 - City of Norfolk - City Parks - Gave 24 azaleas to winners of Home Beautification Contest. Valued at \$75.00.

- 6 - Bank of Virginia Beach - Gave \$25.00 to the 4 secretaries who turned in the best secretaries book at the end of the year.
- 7 - Southern States Norfolk Service - Gave \$20.00 for refreshments at Achievement Night Program.
- 8 - Berkley Feed Corporation - Gave \$25.00 for prize money for Achievement Night.
- 9 - Creeds Ruritan Club - Gave \$27.00 for prizes for 4-H exhibits at Achievement Program.
- 10 - Kempsville Ruritan Club gave \$25.00 for prizes for 4-H exhibits at Achievement Program.
- 11 - Montgomery Lumber Company - Gave \$15.00 for expenses of Achievement Night Program.

OTHER 4-H ACTIVITIES

I think it is deemed necessary to add in this report that the Baby Beef Project members are well on their way in the 1954 Baby Beef Project. Fifteen boys in Princess Anne County received their 1954 steers on September 23rd. One other steer was bought at the Petersburg Calf Sale to be shown at the 4-H Show at the Atlantic Rural Exposition. I am happy to report that all calves are doing well, on full feed and gaining properly, and one leading well. However, one calf was not so fortunate, as he broke away from his owner and later bloated and died. These calves were selected by the two men agents from Northern Virginia.

Other activities include five school grounds cleaned and shrubbery set out.

● Participation in the Market Pig Show.

● Participation in the Baby Beef Show at Portsmouth.

● Participation in the Baby Beef Show at State Fair.

● One Poultry team trained and was good enough to win third place in district which enabled the team to enter the State Poultry Judging Team.

● One club toured Naval Amphibus base and Swifts Packing Plant.

● Two 4-H Welcome signs erected on highways leading into County. Four others ready to be erected.

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

● From an extension standpoint the work with the Production and Marketing Administration consists of helping to handle the educational work in regard to the different Programs. In an attempt to do this job, I have cooperated wherever possible with both the County Committee and Mrs. Lucille A. Bass in this educational Program.

The County Committee has full responsibility for the FMA Program in the County as it is their duty to hire and fire all personnel, plan compliance work, and select compliance supervisors, approve County goals of different crops and make recommendations to the State Committee for needed program adjustments in the County. There are five communities in the County with three community committeemen elected by participating farmers in each. The responsibilities of these committeemen being to handle the program on a community level, such as filling out the compliance forms, spot checking farms for compliance, taking orders for conservation material, handling election meetings, and other jobs on a

community basis.

AGRICULTURE FINANCING

Due to the drop in Agriculture prices, our farmers of the County may need more assistance in their Agricultural Financing for next year. However, with prices still strong during 1953 it has not been necessary to assist very many of our farmers with their financing. There have been numerous inquiries by veterans and others interested in purchasing farms in the County, and these men have been referred to either County Lending Agencies or to the Farmers Home Administration. We have cooperated fully with the County Supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration in his Program of assistance in farm and equipment purchases. An office is provided twice monthly so that this Supervisor can meet with anyone interested in assistance.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Virginia Dare Soil Conservation District which is organized to include Princess Anne and Norfolk Counties is supervising the Conservation work being done here in the County. We are most fortunate to have such an able Soil Technician, Aubrey N. Holmes, heading up this work for our County.

Drainage is the number one problem that our farmers here in the County are facing. Open ditches are necessary in order that about 40 per cent of our crop land can be used for profitable production. I have tried to work closely with our Soil Technician in assisting any of our farmers with their drainage problems. I have also attended all of the Soil Conservation District Meetings in order that I might be familiar with their projects. So that our efforts might be coordinated towards the maximum Conservation for this County.

OUTLOOK AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1954

After completing only five months as County Agent of Princess Anne County, I still feel that I am not too familiar with the Extension Program as it has existed in the past. I would however, like to make some recommendations on the basis of this short period of services for changes in our County Agricultural Program.

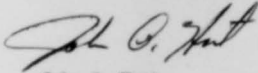
- (1) As it seems quite sure that Corn will be put on the allotment list for 1954, I feel that our farmers should be encouraged to expand their livestock business as an alternative market for their corn production. Proper fencing is the one obstacle that has to be overcome.
- (2) That an educational program be conducted to acquaint our farmers with Government Programs as they now exist in the support of both basic and non-perishable commodities. With all other commodity groups and industries receiving Government assistance, I do not feel that the farmers should be the first to discard their Government Program.
- (3) That 4-H Club work continue to receive prominent attention in our County Extension Program, and that every effort be made to expand its scope and present its benefits to more rural boys and girls.
- (4) I want to further recommend that the efforts of the County Agent be fully coordinated with the County Board of Agriculture so as to develop an extension program able to work 100 per cent toward a worthwhile educational program.

SUMMARY

I feel that Princess Anne County is one of the most blessed areas in the State of Virginia through its location both as to markets and land productivity. I hope that I may be as influential in the Agricultural progress of this County through the coming year as Mr. H. W. Ozlin was during his service as County Agent. I am glad that I had the opportunity to succeed a man that had been doing a successful job. His influence on the farmers and their respect to his position will certainly make it easier for me in attempting to continue the Programs started during his services.

I would like to give credit to all of those who cooperated with this Extension Program during the year, 1953. I refer especially to H. W. Ozlin, Retired Agent; Mrs. Joyce L. Saunders, Secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth D. Deal, Home Demonstration Agent; the Staff of Virginia Truck Experiment Station; Head Clerk of P. M. A., Mrs. Lucille A. Bass; Aubrey Holmes, Soil Conservation Technician; and last and yet most important, my Assistant Agent, Dick Cockrell. All of these people have cooperated in making our Extension Program a success during this past year.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



John O. Hart
County Agent