

NORTH CAROLINA

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNTY AGENT ANNUAL REPORT 1934

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REPORT FILES
OFFICE COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION WORK

NARRATIVE REPORT
OF
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK
FOR
RANDOLPH COUNTY
FROM
DECEMBER 1st. 1933 TO NOVEMBER 30th. 1934
BY
E. S. MILLSAPS, JR.
COUNTY AGENT

COUNTY AGENT ANNUAL REPORT.

ANNUAL REPORT
RANDOLPH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

-1934-

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STATUS OF COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATION

With the first of December comes the closing of another fiscal year, and the job of reporting on the work accomplished during the past twelve months. During recent years this has been a very sad duty, because it becomes necessary to review past events, and during these years there was so little to encourage the farmer that one hesitated to allow a backward look at the sad plight.

A year ago, however, the picture was different; not so much in a financial way, as time was required to bring about results, but the morale of the farmer was changed. He looked ahead and planned for 1934 with a confidence that had been lacking. With the closing of the year it is easy to see the results of this confidence, and the still buoyant spirit that is ever driving the farmer forward. During 1934 the American Farmer has accomplished the seeming impossible, in that, through the aid of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, they have learned to cooperate as a body. Certainly they have learned to cooperate to the extent of commodities.

That they are well pleased with the results of their cooperative efforts during the past year, is manifested in no uncertain way, when we review the referendum on Cotton and Tobacco that has taken place. These control measures have meant the salvation of our farmers and they are awake to this fact.

The hearty cooperation with the program as a whole by our farmers here has been an inspiration to stay on the job, when it seemed almost beyond the reach of the imagination or the efforts of man. The cooperation of all agencies connected with the work have rendered valuable assistance. Therefore, I wish to give recognition to these agencies in the beginning of this report.

COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

During the past year this body of ²² twenty-two men have rendered invaluable service, although they have not met in a body as often as they have in the past, due to the fact that the Agent has been so covered up with adjustment work that he could not meet with them. On the other hand, the contract work has taken so much of the Agent's time, that he could not do the field work that he had done in the past. Therefore, this loyal group of men have ever been ready to meet the emergency.

Time and time again during the year, when things needed to be done in the field and the Agent could not get to it, he has written certain members of this Board, asking that they do certain jobs in their communities, and in every instance it has been done and they have come back for more. For such loyalty of service in the interest of their communities, without pay or thanks, I feel that they are due every recognition possible and I feel that the time will come when they will receive their just reward.

COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A year ago I stated that this body, realizing the need of better quarters, had prepared nice new quarters for the Agent in the basement of the Court House. This was true, but this year, when we again went to them and told them that we had outgrown our quarters, another room was provided by cutting a door through a brick wall and giving us two large rooms connecting.

This, however, is only a small part, as they have been behind the program whole heartedly throughout the year. They have signed the reduction contracts on their own farms, and endorsed the program on all occasions. Their influence in this respect has meant

more than I can say towards the almost one hundred per cent cooperation that we have had behind the program in the County. To these men I wish to express my deepest appreciation, and to assure them that, with this cooperation, I shall strive to render a greater service during the coming year.

COUNTY GUERNSEY BREEDERS ASS'N.

While crops of all kinds have benefited by the present program, I am sorry to say that the cattle man has gone through one of the darkest years of his experience. All feeds have been far above the levels of the past few years, and still dairy products have made practically no gains at all. This has tended to shorten still farther the short margin of profit, until our butterfat men are not breaking even.

I mentioned the above, simply to illustrate the wonderful loyalty and hope of this body of men. It is true that they have culled their herds as never before, but at the same time, they have stayed on the jobs, and have tried to use even better bulls than in the past, realizing that to succeed, it is going to take better breeding, better feeding, and closer culling. So, after all, they have learned a valuable lesson through the school of experience, and I wish to take my hat off to them for their courage and the wonderful spirit of cooperation they have shown during the year.

RANDOLPH COUNTY GRANGE

To this organization I owe a large part for the success of the year's work. Through thick and thin they have stood behind the program; they have given me an opportunity to come before them, and to present the program in detail. They have been missionaries for the cause and have been the means of giving the movement the

proper background by their endorsement. I believe this to be one of the greatest forces for better farming in the future that we have, and certainly this applies to our County and Subordinate granges, and I sincerely hope for them every success in their endeavor, and pledge my support to them in every way possible.

EXTENSION OFFICE COOPERATION

It is taken for granted that the Extension Office will cooperate with the men in the field, or on the firing line, but this year through the stress, when all forces were working eighteen to twenty hours per day, it has been a great source of consolation to call E. Y. Floyd or Charlie Sheffield over the telephone, and though tired and worried as they were, to hear their cheerful voices, as they explained this or that to us; the same things that they had been answering all day long. To these men my hat is off, as well as to W. W. Shay, who has handled the Corn-Hog. To these men especially, and to the Director and District Agent who have been patient with us this year, with an understanding of our problems and an encouraging word when possible. To all these men, as well as the specialists who have assisted, I wish to express my most sincere appreciation.

PROGRAM OF WORK AND RESULTS

This year our work began in a different way than heretofore, as usually, early in January we hold a meeting of the Board of Agriculture and outline a definite program.

This year early in December we received instructions and material for starting a campaign for the Tobacco Adjustment Program. Meetings were held in all sections of the County, and contracts were offered. The Agent and all available forces were kept busy signing contracts, figuring allotments, etc. for the tobacco men.

While we were in the midst of this, we received instructions to launch the Cotton Program. Another series of meetings were held in the cotton sections, and the same procedure followed as with the tobacco.

Then, in the midst of these campaigns, instructions were received to start the Corn-Hog Campaign. Again meetings were held to give the growers an understanding of this program, with the following details of the contracts to be worked out in the office and signed.

After the close of the sign-up in each of these campaigns, compliance immediately started with wheat, tobacco, cotton and corn-hog all in order; then the Bankhead Cotton applications with the publicity that was necessary in order to get all growers signed up in order to receive exemption, and the issuance of the tobacco marketing cards, and the year was gone.

Along with the above, we have tried as best we could to hold the extension program together, and through the co-operation of the previously mentioned organizations have succeeded far beyond our expectations.

Generally speaking, we have stressed soil building, the conservation of the soil, through terracing and the use of more cover crops, the production of more and better hay crops, and the improvement of our livestock, through more rigid culling as well as the use of better sires, to assist our farmers in financing their farming operations through cheaper loan sources, which we were largely able to do through the emergency Crop Loan. This loan has been a God send to our farmers, and if permitted to remain in force for another year or two, will be the means of making them independent of all time merchants, as the rate of interest does not cripple them, and allows them to pay cost for their supplies and thus again save time prices.

In signing the reduction contracts the farmers rented a certain acreage to the Government, and practically all of this land was seeded to legume crops, the principal one being lespedeza. I feel that it would be safe to say that we had a minimum of 30,000 acres seeded to lespedeza in the County this year, while I believe that it far exceeded this figure.

This fall we harvested the largest crop of lespedeza seed ever to be harvested in the County, which I feel will go beyond 500,000 pounds. Of this amount our farmers will have some to sell out of the County, but far more than half of it will be seeded back on the land here in the County.

We have co-operated in every way possible with the soil erosion forces on the Deep River Water Shed, under the direction of Dr. J. H. Stallings of the Department of Interior. I feel that this is one of the most fundamental pieces of work ever started by our Government for the aid and benefit of the farmer.

Taken as a whole, our farmers made good crops in all lines of endeavor this year. Due to the heavy rains, our tobacco crop was the lightest this year that it has been for many years, but due to the better prices received they have not suffered at all.

Certainly, by far the largest hay crop was harvested this year in the history of the County, and it is now a question of how to find a market for our hay. We thought early in the fall we would be able to market it to the Government for feeding cattle but they have now stopped buying hay, and are rapidly closing out the cattle or shipping them to other territory.

I shall try to take up each line of work searately and to somewhat go into detail of the work done, but here I only wish to say in closing that, as a whole, we have had a very prosperous year, and we are extremely thankful for the many blessings that have been ours this year, and are looking forward to the new year with a greater faith in the future for the farmer, and in his ability to co-operate for the betterment of his community, state and nation, as well as for himself.

CEREALSCorn:

Corn is our largest cultivated crop, and for that reason merits considerable attention. In the past it has been largely used as a cash crop after supplying the home needs, but we have tried during the past few years to demonstrate the fact that we can get more out of our corn by feeding it to livestock at home. Feeding demonstrations have been conducted in all parts of the County to bring out this fact, consequently today, while we are producing more corn, we are marketing it through livestock here in the County.

This year our work with corn has largely been confined to recommendations in cultural methods, fertilization, and varieties. Through the use of lespedeza and the turning of this sod for corn, we are gradually increasing our per acre yields in the County, until today we average around twenty-five bushels per acre as against seventeen bushels ten years ago. Along with this, we are standardizing our varieties of corn, using mainly Southern Beauty and Lathams Double for white varieties; the Southern Beauty being used on our upland and the Lathams on the bottom land. Jarvis Golden and Reid's Yellow Dent are being used for the yellow varieties.

With the increased interest in dairy cattle in the County, our farmers are coming more and more to realize the importance of a green winter feed; so, corn is now being grown for insilage in increasing acreage each year. The trench silo, which costs very little to build, has helped to increase the interest in this work, and with a return of normal prices for dairy products I am expecting a still marked increase in insilage corn.

This year we had sixty-two farmers to co-operate with the corn reduction program, and I believe that if the program is put on in the County during 1935 we will have two or three hundred contracts, as there is scarcely a day now that some farmer isn't in the office asking about the program, and whether a program will be offered for next year. It has certainly been interesting to see how farmers have learned the lesson of co-operation during this emergency program. I believe that it is the opening of a co-operative farming along all lines in the future.

Wheat:

Randolph has always been one of the leading wheat counties of the state, and often leads in total bushels grown, but it has not made the progress that it should have in bushels per acre, until within the past few years. At last, however, our farmers have realized the importance of lespedeza as a soil building crop, and are now seeding it on practically every acre of small grain grown. This has done more to increase the yields than anything else that has been done and is certainly the most constructive.

It is true that we have done quite a bit of fertilizer work, and especially top dressing of small grain in the spring. This gives the most instant results as well as the most noticeable as 100 lbs. of soda per acre as a top dressing will double the yield in our ordinary wheat land. This in itself is good farming and at a profit, but, on the other hand, we have conducted demonstrations to show that where a good legume crop is turned under the increase for the soda is very slight, in fact scarcely noticeable to the eye.

Our principal varieties are Redheart, Leaps Prolific and Gleason, with some Fulcater still being used, especially on bottom

lands, as it seems to resist rust better than any variety we use. On sod land our farmers largely use a 2-10-4 fertilizer in the fall, and, if conditions warrant, a light top dressing of ammonia in the spring.

Fifty of our farmers signed the reduction contract last year and have been very well pleased with the results. They have been able to produce all the small grain they needed for home use and a small amount for sale, and have received around \$3,000.00 as rental on the land they left out of cultivation. Our only objection to the wheat contract is, we do not seem to be able to get rental checks as we do from other commodity contracts. This has caused some dissatisfaction, as our farmers cannot understand why these checks are being held up. At the present time 15 of our contract signers have not as yet received their second payment for their 1933 crop, with nothing for the 1934 contracted acres as yet. I have tried to point out to them the fact that Washington has been covered up with many times the normal amount of work and they will get them in time.

Oats:

During the past year very little has been done with oats, other than to keep before the farmers the importance of good seed of cold resistant varieties, the importance of seed treatment, cultural methods and the growing of enough oats to supply our home needs. The varieties being used now are largely Norton and Lee for fall seeding, as they stand the winters well; with the Fulgrum still being used mainly for spring seeding. With the introduction of these varieties, oats have rapidly increased, until we are practically supplying our own needs, where five years ago we were producing only about fifty per cent of our needs.

Barley:

A few years ago it looked like barley was going to become one of our leading small grains, but, due to its early maturity, it was killed so badly by the spring frosts; therefore, it has dropped back in total acreage. It is still being used in the winter hay mixtures, for spring grazing, for green manure crops, or where grazed in the spring makes good grain.

Rye:

Rye is largely used for green manure crop to be turned under in the spring, or for winter and spring grazing. It is very popular with the tobacco growers as they find that they can always make good tobacco following rye, which is not true with all cover crops.

The Abruzzi variety makes the best growth, and when harvested for seed is much the better producer. I feel that there is a place here for the growing of rye for seed to supply the demand from the cotton section, but our farmers do not seem to be very interested.

Alfalfa:

A few years ago it was not thought practicable to grow alfalfa here, but with the increased interest in dairy cattle, and the demand for more and better hay, we were able to get farmers to try it out on a small scale.

Demonstrations were put out on one acre of land in practically every section of the County. Field meetings were held at these demonstrations and in each instance the farmer himself was called on to tell what he thought of his acre of alfalfa. We were assisted in this work by the American Limestone Company, who have been very generous in furnishing lime free of cost for the demonstrations. One year a car of 33 tons furnished by these people was used in this way.

Today our acreage has grown by leaps and bounds, and we feel that the only thing that is holding us back with this program is the low prices received for dairy products, which does not allow the farmer enough margin to purchase the lime and seed necessary for the work. This fall we had several men seeding alfalfa for the first time, and practically every man in the County who once started has increased his acreage. In fact, I do not know a single man who started with alfalfa but what has increased his acreage.

At the present time we have about 1300 acres in alfalfa and feel confident that with better conditions within another year or two this acreage will be doubled. We have found that it is not hard to start if we will observe the rules, and, by proper cultivation, a single seeding will last for eight to ten years. In fact, we have a demonstration in this County where the land has been seeded for 16 years and the stand is still perfect, and the land out better than four tons of hay per acre this year.

Sweet Clover:

During 1934 I am sorry to report that very little work was done with Sweet Clover. We believe it to be a very important soil building crop, but it cannot be grown here without lime, and during the past two or three years our farmers have not been able to buy the lime. We have found the Sweet Clover to be one of the best crops to use as a forerunner of alfalfa. It carries the same inoculation as alfalfa, and, due to the fact that stock does not like the taste of it, the farmers will allow it to be turned back for soil building. As soon as possible, I am hoping that we can again increase our acreage to this great crop.

Red Clover:

Red Clover has often been referred to as the "King of Legumes", and I would not dare say anything against it, as it is one of the great legumes; but if it is King then Lespedeza should be called the "Queen of Legumes", as it is generally understood that the real power is back of the throne, ruling with the unseen hand.

To get back to the Red Clover, however, I regret to see the acreage of this great crop falling off, but again we have the question of lime to deal with, and our farmers, as stated above, have not been in a position to buy it. I sincerely hope to see a revival of interest in this great crop during 1935.

Vetch:

In the southern part of the County vetch is becoming a very important cash crop from the seed, as well as a soil builder and hay crop. The remainder of the County uses it largely in hay mixtures to be cut green in the spring. Due to the uncertain summer seasons for hay, more and more farmers are turning to the winter hay mixtures each year.

I have stressed the importance of the winter hay mixtures on all occasions, through the County papers, in meetings, and in personal contact with the farmers over the County.

Lespedeza:

Lespedeza, to my mind, is the "Queen of all Legumes", and in this section I feel that we cannot get too much of it on our lands. For the past ten years I have talked Lespedeza on all occasions. I have written hundreds of news articles about it, and still I feel that enough cannot be said for this great crop.

In the spring of 1923 I ordered a small amount of this seed and finally persuaded a few farmers to try it out; so, with this beginning we have continued to grow by leaps and bounds, until today we have better than 20,000 acres seeded to this crop, and I estimate our seed crop this fall at 500,000 pounds. Just how much of this seed will be for sale I cannot say, as it now looks as if our own farmers will use the greater part of it here in the County. Each day they are calling at the office making inquiries as to where they can locate seed.

I have conducted demonstrations in various parts of the County with varieties, but, after all, I feel that all varieties have their place and that our farmers now know what they want. For pasture we say use common or Tenn. 76; strictly for hay Tenn. 76 or Kobe; for soil building I know of nothing that will surpass the common variety. Korean Lespedeza can be used for all of these purposes, but does not make the growth of Kobe or the Tenn. 76 varieties, and is not as well suited for pasture, as it does not stay green as long in the fall. On the other hand, it produces more seed than any of the other varieties, and it is claimed that it is a little earlier starting in the spring. If this is true, it has a place also in our pastures.

Generally speaking, they are all too good to fuss about, as I see it; so, my main aim is to get every idle acre seeded down to this crop. My reason for this is simple. It is the only legume that I know of that can just be hogged into the land, regardless of the fertility of the land or the acidity of the land and still get a catch. Prepare a good seed bed and it does better; add lime and it does still better; do both and put it on strong land and it does better still. In other words, I know of no crop that will respond quicker to good treatment, but on the other hand I know of no crop that will take the same punishment.

The fact that it will grow without lime, and on our poorest soils, puts it within the reach of the poor as well as the rich. The ease with which the seed can be saved also puts it within the reach of all, for any man who can buy a bushel of seed for one acre can, by saving the seed in the fall, be prepared to seed any additional acres that he desires the next year. Our aim is to see every idle acre seeded to this crop, and also every cultivated acre carrying lespedeza in the soil rotation.

We have been very proud of the progress made in our dairy development in this County, but without lespedeza pastures this progress could not have taken place. We are also proud of the increased per acre yields of corn, wheat and other cultivated crops, but the greater part of the credit goes to the lespedeza sod turned under rather than better cultural methods or fertilization.

Pastures:

It has often been said that it is necessary to have cows before we realize the importance of pastures, and in a large measure this is true. Our cattle and pasture campaign has run hand in hand; as the farmer became interested in cattle he realized the importance of pastures.

The basis of all of our pastures is lespedeza, and even today if you take lespedeza away from us we would have very little pasture. It is true that we have other pastures and the mixed pastures are rapidly gaining, as our farmers realize the need of grass mixtures to furnish spring grazing before the lespedeza starts. Next to lespedeza this office has pushed pastures harder than any other feature of farming, realizing that to stay in the cattle industry, we must have cheap roughage, which means plenty of good pasture during the summer months, and hay during the winter months.

For our mixed pastures, or what we call a complete pasture mixture, we recommend 40 to 45 pounds of the following mixture: Orchard grass, Tall Meadow Oat grass, Dallis grass, Herdgrass, Ky. Blue grass, White Dutch clover and lespedeza. This mixture gives us a wonderful sod, and will carry cattle from early spring till after frost, if it is not over grazed, and on fair soil it will easily carry one cow per acre.

The preparation of the land consists of very shallow cultivation, as we have found that grass does better, and will stand the grazing better where the seed bed is shallow. This is done either with the disc harrow, or bull tongue plow, and then the section harrow is used until we have a fine seed bed. If possible, the land should be limed, and then three or four hundred pounds of good fertilizer per acre.

At present we have around seven thousand acres of improved pastures, without which we could not have gotten our cattle through the present low price of butterfat.

Soybeans:

Soybeans are still our leading hay crop and will probably remain so for many years to come. The soybean is a hardy plant, and will make a nice growth without lime or inoculation, which makes it appeal to the average farmer of limited means. Soybeans will also stand a wider range of weather conditions and still make a better crop of hay than practically any legume we have.

We have demonstrated in various sections of the County the different varieties, until practically every farmer in the County is familiar with the growth of them. In the past the Mammoth Yellow was a great favorite, but for the past few years the Holly

brook, Mammoth Brown, the Laredo and the O-too-tan have taken the day. We believe the O-too-tan to be one of the best hay varieties that we have, as they make a very rank growth, but at the same time, the stems are small and they have a very heavy leaf growth.

This year we made by far the greatest hay crop in the history of the County, as we had a larger acreage in soybeans and alfalfa, and in addition to this the rainy season caused the les-pedeza crop to exceed all expectations, most of it getting 30 to 40 inches in height.

The preparation of the land for soybeans is very simple. The land is turned, harrowed down and drilled, using generally about 200 lbs. of an 0-10-4 fertilizer and seed according to the variety. With the larger beans about 2 bushels per acre, and with the smaller ones, three pecks to one bushel.

Winter Hay Mixtures:

Winter hay mixtures have rapidly been gaining favor during the past few years, due to the uncertain weather conditions during the summer months; and also due to a shortage of suitable hay land our dairymen have not been able to make enough hay during the summer to carry them over. Still another reason is that of the fine quality of the winter hay mixture and the ease of curing.

The winter hay mixture most commonly used here consists of one and one half bushels of oats, one and one half bushels of barley, and 20 pounds of vetch. Another popular mixture is two bushels of oats, one bushel of smooth wheat and 20 pounds of vetch or 30 pounds of winter peas. Crimson clover and oats are also used to some extent, and the clover is often put in the first named mixtures along with the other mixture, simply by cutting down on the vetch.

The whole milk dairymen are now making at least one third of their total hay crop from winter mixtures, and many other butterfat men are not far behind them. One of the reasons for the popularity of the winter mixture is that it works fine into the rotation of the insilage corn. The dairyman will cut his insilage corn, prepare the land and seed to winter hay. The hay is then cut in the spring and the land again prepared and seeded back to insilage. It is true that this is rather hard on the land, but we must keep in mind that both of these crops are heavy and the advantage of haying them close to the barn naturally leads to this practice. On the other hand, such fields are close for hauling out manure, so these fields are covered once, if not twice each year with stable manure. As a result of this practice, where it has been going on for the past eight years, we are not able to detect any dropping off in yields, in fact it is the other way round.

A great many of the butterfat producers are using this mixture for spring grazing as well as for a hay crop with good results.

Crimson Clover:

Crimson clover is used mainly as a winter cover crop and in the winter hay mixture. In fact, due to the dry springs and the difficulty of early preparation of the land for cultivated crops, lespedeza has largely taken the place of crimson clover as a soiling crop. It is still used some by the tobacco growers, as they find that tobacco does well following this clover. Its greatest use, however, at present is in the winter hay mixture where it serves a good purpose.

Irish Potatoes:

Very little work was done with potatoes this year, other

than variety recommendations. The fertilization and the season for planting came at a time when we were all tied up with the crop reduction program and were not able to get out.

Randolph County does not make any effort to produce potatoes for the market other than the surplus for the home supply.

Sweet Potatoes:

Sweet potatoes, like the Irish, are not grown here commercially, but an abundant supply is grown for home use, with a surplus for the local market. Some eight or ten men in the County have storage houses and grow for the market, housing their potatoes until the other potatoes are off of the market and in this way realize a good price for their potatoes. Very little was done with the potato this year other than general information, such as seed treatment, fertilization, etc.

Cotton:

Plenty of time was devoted to cotton work this year, but very little of it was in the nature of extension, but rather in the acreage control work. We are still sticking to the Mexican big boll variety, however, and the percentage of this variety is gaining.

In the control work we were able to get very few contracts, as we were instructed not to ask the small grower with less than four acres to sign; consequently, we secured 73 contracts for the reduction of acres. The remainder of the growers were advised to hold their acreage down to an average of the past two years.

Later when the applications came out for the Bankhead Act we had 837 applications for exemption to handle with a county allotment of only 683 bales. This required each and every application to have to be worked over by the committee, as the applications asked for practically doubled the allotment. At the start this

caused quite a lot of dissatisfaction on the part of the growers, but as the selling season advanced and they saw what they were getting for their cotton, they came to like the new order of things better. It is true that many of them had to buy exemptions, but in the end they did not mind this so much, as they were able to see that after all they were receiving a better price for their cotton.

The time is now near for the vote on the Bankhead Act, and from the remarks of the farmers as they call at the office I feel sure that it is going to carry in this County by a good majority.

Tobacco:

Tobacco is our largest cash crop, though comparatively a new crop to our section. It is true that a small amount of tobacco has been grown here for the past fifty years, but it only started to increase during 1918 and 1919. Since that time it has made rapid gains, going to better than 4,000,000 pounds around 1928 to 1930. Due to the low price since that time it dropped down to less than 3,000,000 pounds.

My work with this crop has been in fertilizer mixtures, cultural methods and the treatment of seed. More than double the amount of seed were treated at this office this year than I have ever handled before, thus showing that the farmers are coming to realize the importance of treating their seeds. I also feel that great strides have been made in the quality of the tobacco marketed, due to the fertilizer work that has been done, through the proper mixtures of mineral and organic nitrogen, and also in the amount of ammonia used, due to the nature of the land and the humus content of the land.

Our farmers co-operated in a nice way with the reduction campaign; there being 813 contracts signed by the growers of the County. There were also 93 applications for exemptions approved by tenants who were either on land where tobacco had not been grown during the base period or on the farms of landlords who did not sign the contracts.

I do not think that I have ever worked with a class of farmers who were as well pleased with their co-operative efforts as much as the tobacco growers. They are simply all smiles every time you meet them. The same thing is true even with the growers who did not sign contracts, as they now feel that they are far better off, even if they do have to pay the tax, than to have it back as it was before. If the non-signer is offered a contract this winter, however, I do not believe we will have a man left on the outside who can sign up.

Our tobacco farmers have received more for their crop this year than in any year since 1919, and they have in practically every instance applied it to their indebtedness on their farms. I hear of some sections where they are wasting their tobacco money by buying things they do not need, but I can certainly say that this is not the case in this County. In fact, it has meant the saving of many farms that would otherwise have been lost.

HORTICULTURE

There has been a great interest in the Home Garden again this year, through the Welfare forces, as well as this office. I have tried to co-operate with all forces in every way possible towards having an all year round garden on every farm.

Throughout the year I have prepared articles for the local papers regarding the garden campaign, giving the seeding dates for the different vegetables and their importance. I have talked on the garden campaign in all subordinate granges of the County, and have handed out several hundred copies of the Home and Garden Manuel. This work has given good results, as I feel that, taken as a whole, we have better gardens than ever before in the County.

A great deal of interest has been shown in the beautification of the home-grounds and more shrubbery has been put out this year than in any previous five years. I have discussed this subject with the granges and have had representatives of commercial nurseries to meet with the granges to discuss this subject. This has gone on into other improvements, as many homes have been remodeled and painted this year.

FORESTRY

While very little forestry work is actually under way here, there is considerable interest being manifested at the present time, largely due to the work of the soil erosion forces that are in charge of a large area of our County. Arrangements are already under way to reseed several hundred acres of worn out land back to timber this winter. I am hoping that the work being done on this area is going to be an eye opener to farmers in other sections of the County, and that by another year we can report a general interest in this work. A few farms in the erosion area are being taken over to be used entirely for forestry demonstrations.

RODENTS & INSECTS

Very little was done along this line other than news articles in the local papers regarding the treatment for the bean beetle,

Last year, due to the extreme dry weather, we were not bothered by the beetle, but this year it was the worst I have ever seen, and farmers were forced to dust their beans, or do without.

No rodent campaign was put on this year, but directions were given to several farmers for preparing the bait at home, as well as publishing the directions in the local papers, after several calls had been made at the office.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

While my time for outside work has been limited somewhat this year, I have never seen the farmers more interested in engineering problems. I have tried to keep articles in the papers stressing the importance of soil conservation, through terracing and the seeding of cover crops. I believe that in the past we have not stressed this fundamental basic principle to the farmers as we should, but we are now awake to the fact that if we do not conserve the soil we lose all.

The Deep River Soil Erosion Area covers about one sixth of our County, and their forces are as rapidly as possible surveying the land, plotting the soil types, terracing the rolling land, and working out crop rotations with the farmers, that have as their aim the holding of the surface water on the land. Farmers from all sections of the County have visited the area, and, as a result, I have had more calls for terrace work than I could look after. Demonstrations have been conducted in other sections, as well as tours of inspection of the erosion area with the farmers in order that they might see the work. At present we are working on a plan whereby we hope that we can, at a small expense per acre, be able to terrace the land of the farmers in other sections of the County. We understand that some of the

counties in the State already have the plan at work, but so far we have not been able to get the plan into operation.

In the building program, plans were furnished, or assistance given, 59 farmers, with the work on 87 projects, listed as follows: Eighteen sanitary sewerage systems were installed and five water systems put into operation. One home heating plant was installed and five homes were equipped with electric lights. Six new dairy barns were built and twelve others were remodeled for the better handling of the dairy cattle. Eight trench silos were constructed and several more not completed. Nine hog houses were built for the better care of the herd, and especially the breeding sows. Eight poultry or laying houses were constructed and twelve brooder houses built and equipped with the brick furnace. Three storage houses were built for taking care of the winter supply of potatoes, fruit, and other farm crops of this nature.

My greatest regret in regard to this work was that I could not answer one call in a dozen that I had for this type of work. If the Agricultural Adjustment work is to continue, I feel that we should have an assistant so that one man could spend his time in the field looking after the work. I realize the importance of the other work, but the crying need of this work is appalling and I feel that it is our responsibility and that some way should be worked out whereby we could render more aid.

POULTRY

The poultryman has been somewhat in the same position as the dairyman during the past year; that is, his feed cost has been considerably higher, with practically no increase in the price of either poultry or eggs. This has caused the number of poultry to

fall off in this County until we are going into the winter with the smallest number of laying hens that we have had in many years. I feel that this has been a general condition throughout the country, as the egg price is now on the mend, when it is too late for us to make any change. In fact, local merchants state that they have not been able to secure fresh eggs for their demands.

I have continued the co-operative poultry sales this year as usual, but our sales have been lighter this year again, even going lower than last year. The total sales for this year being 78,560 pounds. I feel, however, that these sales have been a great help towards stabilizing the market and causing the farmers to receive a better price for their poultry. The published prices enables the farmer to keep posted on prices, so that the hucksters cannot fool them on the market prices as they used to do before we started our sales.

We were only able to secure five farmers last fall who would keep definite records on the cost of their poultry operations for this year. Only two of these ever submitted records, and due to the press of other work, I was not able to round them up. The records of the two that went through, however, illustrate the fact that regardless of the low price of eggs and the high cost of feed, and with proper handling, the poultryman can make a nice profit. The record of these two flocks show an average of 375 birds throughout the year, with an average of 165 eggs per hen. The feed cost per hen averaged \$1.15, with the average received for eggs at \$3.01 per hen, or a net profit over the cost of feed of \$1.46 per hen, average for the year.

Assistance has been rendered the poultrymen in the holding of culling demonstrations, furnishing of plans for laying houses,

range houses, brooker houses, brick brooders, etc.; also, the proper handling of poultry to prevent disease, the treatment of poultry for worms and mites and lice. They were assisted in getting several flocks vaccinated against chicken pox, and blood tested for B.W.D.

Mr. A. H. Kearns, who operates a small hatchery at Farmer, was instrumental in getting this work done, as he does not use any eggs for hatching other than from tested flocks. I am hoping that the time is near when no hatchery will be permitted to sell chicks who does not conform to these rules.

At present the outlook for poultry is better for next year, and from talking with the poultrymen over the County, I believe this County will produce far more chicks next year than they have for the past two years. Certainly the price of eggs at present seems to indicate a shortage of laying hens, which should make for better markets next year.

DAIRY CATTLE

For the past ten years we have made a steady gain in the dairy work of this County; starting with the farm cow that was kept for home use and with a few surplus pounds of home-made butter for sale, until today we have an up to date creamery in the County, as well as whole milk routes in all directions. Three years ago we estimated the farm income from our cows to run around \$500,000.00, to say nothing of the increased crops harvested, due to the better farming practices that came in with the cow.

The dairy work has been one of our major projects, and we have stressed breeding, culling, feeding and better general management. As a result of the breeding campaign, the County has adopted the Guernsey breed and today has around 140 registered sires in service

in the County. We also have around 800 head of registered females at the present time, with the surplus animals in the original herds, going to make the nucleus for new herds. We also have a few heifers to offer on the market, which are bringing very good prices when we consider the high price of feed and the low price that still prevails with dairy products.

During the past two years, due to the low prices of dairy products, we have had to stop herd test work, as well as advanced registry work, as our dairymen could not pay the price for having this work done. Several of our breeders, however, have kept in touch with what their herds were doing, by keeping up the weighing of milk and feed, in order that they might be able to better cull their herds. We are hoping that by another year we can again get started back to test work. Certainly the breed sales have clearly shown that the cattle with the tests behind them are the ones that bring the price.

With the low prices of dairy products, dairymen have realized as never before the value of cheap feed, and have been interested in better pastures, realizing that this is the greatest source of cheap feed. The greater part of our butterfat has been produced this summer on pastures alone, without any concentrates, and to do this we must have real pastures.

This fall our breeders are taking advantage of the offer of the Federal Government to have their cows tested for Bangs disease, and to clean up their herds while they can collect the indemnity offered at this time. I feel that this is one of the best things the Federal Government could have done to assist dairymen, as the cost of cleaning up an infected herd often about puts the breeder out of business. We are glad, however, that there is very little being found in our County.

4-H CALF CLUB

In order to stimulate our boys in dairy work the business men of Asheboro, five years ago, raised \$2000.00 and turned it over to the County Agent to purchase 20 calves. These calves were placed with boys who were thoroughly investigated and thought to be worthy, and also interested in carrying out the project and becoming dairymen. This project was to run for five years, at the end of which time the boys were to be half owners of all cattle in their possession. This year closed this project and the Agent has been having a time trying to carry on other matters and to close out the project. The problem being to place, to advantage, the half of the cattle that was to come back to the business men.

Recently a sale was held at Wilson, N.C., where 10 of these calves were sold for a total of \$842.50, which was a real good sale, but we still have 18 to 20 animals on hand to be disposed of as soon as possible.

In addition to this, another similar project was started a year later and must be closed out in 1935, which is going to add another 30 to 35 animals for the Agent to dispose of before making a settlement with the members.

I mention these problems as something to be worked out, but on a whole we are very proud of the record that the boys have made with their projects. There were exceptions where the boys fell down on the job, but even at that I feel that we could have handled it if the Agent could have given the projects a little closer supervision.

We now feel that the most of these boys are going to stay in the cattle game and become breeders. They have learned to feed and handle cattle, and each year have brought their calves to the County

Fair, where they have added greatly to the cattle exhibit, and at the same time learned a valuable lesson in being good losers, as well as good winners. Some of the club boys in the past five years have won as high as eighty-five to ninety dollars in premium money on their animals. They are very proud of these records and are keeping their ribbons, and especially the boys each year who wins the championship ribbon.

At the present time we have around 110 animals in the hands of our Calf Club members, and they are all in nice condition. Some few of these have advanced registry records, and many others are the outstanding cows of the County.

SWINE HUSBANDRY

Very little has been done with hogs this year, other than the furnishing of plans for buildings, the giving of information regarding feeding rations and mineral mixtures, especially for feeding sows at farrowing time.

The price of pork has been very discouraging to any man to do very much work with hogs this year, and especially with purebreds. Sixty-two farmers took advantage of the contract offered them for reducing their hogs this year, and the sixty-two will average one hundred dollars each for their co-operation with this program. At the time many did not thoroughly understand the program, and from the questions asked at this time, I feel sure that we are going to have two or three hundred contracts another year, if the contract is offered, which we understand now that it will be.

FARM MANAGEMENT

Due to the Agricultural Adjustment Program and the complete farm record books furnished by them, there has been a great deal more

interest manifested in the keeping of records than ever before. Many farmers, when their record book was delivered, stated that it was just what they had been wanting for a long time and that they were going to keep it all, as well as the crop they contracted. Another thing that stimulated interest was the lack of information they had on hand when they came in to sign their contracts, and the realization of their need for better records. It was almost a daily thing to hear farmers state that they would never be caught without records again, and if nothing else ever came of the Adjustment Program, and farmers learned the lesson of keeping records, I feel that it would be well worth while.

Last year we assisted 360 farmers to secure credit through the Crop Loan Office, but due to the better prices received for tobacco last fall we did not have the demand this year, so only 237 loans were made this year for \$8,990.00, as against better than \$19,000.00 last year.

There were a few farmers who received credit through the Production Credit Corporation, but they did not make small loans and very few of our farmers want more than fifty dollars. Besides, the charges are so high on the small loans that it makes it almost impossible to secure than for the small farmer, as he has to buy as much stock on a forty dollar loan as he does on a hundred dollar loan.

Farm loans were secured through the Federal Land Bank, for more than \$100,000.00 this year, which was the means of saving many farms that would otherwise have been sold out; and the farmers would have lost all that they had put into the farms.

MARKETING

This year we have conducted our co-operative poultry sales as usual, however the total amount handled less than for several years

in the past. I have co-operated with the local granges over the County, and have assisted them with their co-operative buying of fertilizer, seeds, feed and other things.

We also organized a Mutual Exchange at High Point, which serves the northern part of the County. While this Exchange is out of my County, it was sponsored and organized by the Trinity Grange which is in this County, and all but a very few of its members are in the County. This Exchange while having been in operation for a very few months is now doing several thousands dollars worth of business.

In handling our lespedeza seed I have continued to hold our exchange days, where the farmers who have seed for sale bring them out and make their own sales to the farmers who are in the market for seed. We have conducted these sales for the past three years and they have always met with satisfaction of all who took part in them.

Assistance was rendered in purchases and sales as follows:

Sales from the farm -----	\$ 145,700.00
Purchases -----	36,000.00

The sales cover assistance rendered in poultry sales, dairy products, eggs, hay, grain, seeds, and livestock.

The farm purchases includes seed needed from outside sources, breeding stock, farm equipment, fertilizer and feeds.

In addition to the High Point Exchange we are at present working on the organization of a County-wide Exchange, to be located at Asheboro, as the other one does not serve the County as a whole. This movement is being sponsored by the County Pomona Grange, and will, if perfected, be managed by them.

OUTLOOK FOR 1935.

The outlook for 1935 is the brightest of anything that we have had for many years. With the closing of the tobacco and cotton season and the increased prices that growers have received this year, they are all smiles. Especially the tobacco farmer at the present time is in the finest of spirit. He has sold his tobacco well, paid off his debts entirely in lots of cases, and in others he has made payments that insure him a carry-over until he can make another crop.

The outlook for the control program for another year is certain to carry, judging by the attitude of the growers who call at the office. All of these things have had a tendency to lift the gloom that was hovering over the growers, and even those who have not benefited so much as yet from the program are in a changed attitude, and are looking towards 1935 with renewed hope and confidence.

While, as stated elsewhere, our livestock farmers are still in the dumps, but they feel that 1935 is going to be kind to them, and they are, therefore, looking forward to it with eagerness. They are looking for better sires to head their herds, making plans for seeding more pastures in the spring, as well as alfalfa and other grazing crops.

The poultry market as indexed by the present shortage of eggs means that we are short of hens. This means another year before this condition can be changed, and should indicate better prices throughout the year for eggs, as well as for meat fowls.

Taken as a whole, everything looks bright, and our farmers are facing the new year with renewed energy and a determination that is bound to win.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Days in field	219
Days in office	94
Office conferences	5105
Telephone calls	1888
Letters written	1893
Circulars prepared	33
Copies of circulars mailed	15,370
Farm Visits made	955
News Articles prepared for press	120
Bulletins distributed	860

Project Work

Method demonstrations given	13
Attendance at these meetings	482
Training meetings held	18
Attendance at such meetings	235
4-H Club	2
Attendance	18
Result demonstration meetings	10
Attendance	364
Other project meetings held	62
Attendance at such meetings	5134

Agricultural Adjustment Program

Tobacco Reduction Contracts signed	813
Tobacco allotments approved	93
Cotton reduction contracts signed	73
Bankhead applications signed	837
Wheat reduction contracts in force	50
Corn-Hog contracts signed	62

Miscellaneous

Days Annual leave taken	0
Days sick leave taken	0
Official miles traveled	13,990