

NORTH CAROLINA

SWAIN COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTY AGENT

1938

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NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

1934 - 1935

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A. W. NESBITT  
County Agent

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#### A.A.A. PROGRAM - TOBACCO

This year, we had almost twice as many contract signers as we had last year. The farmers were well pleased with the price they received for their tobacco. The farmers in Buncombe County averaged around eighteen cents per pound for their entire crop, which was much better than the previous year.

In December, a vote of the farmers was taken to determine whether or not they wanted to continue the program. The results were that eighty-nine percent of the farmers did want the control program to stay in force. Some farmers were so interested in the program that they visited other growers to get them to vote. Then, as it was open to all tobacco growers, we had several who did not sign reduction contracts, to vote in favor of the control program. Of course, we have a few farmers who have fought the reduction plan from the beginning and who are still doing all they can against it.

This year, we had very much less trouble with the farmers complying with their tobacco contracts. This was due, of course, to the fact that they had a better understanding of the program and knew what was necessary in order to comply with their contracts. The committeemen were better equipped and informed, so they did not make as many errors. Instead of having three men in each township to measure the tobacco acreage, we had just one supervisor. This eliminated a number of mistakes and the work was more uniform.

Several of the contract growers produced from fifteen hundred pounds to two thousand pounds of tobacco per acre this year. Some of these men did not plant as much acreage as their allotments permitted, but still produced their allotted pounds. Other growers produced more than their allotted pounds. Some farmers had to destroy tobacco that would have sold for fifteen to twenty cents per pound. That made it difficult for some to comply with their contracts.

During the 1934-35 marketing season, farmers in Buncombe County paid more than fourteen thousand dollars in taxes. I don't believe more than two thousand dollars taxes will be collected this year. Most of this amount will be paid by new growers.

The small growers who were unable to sign reduction contracts were better taken care of this year. The larger percentage of contract signers enabled us to give allotments to the growers who were entitled to receive such allotments.

#### BEKF CATTLE

Probably the most important event in connection with beef cattle was the Fat Stock Show held in Asheville last October under the sponsorship of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. In many respects, it was better than we expected. Mr. Woodruff, the county agent who started the Fat Cattle Show at Savannah, said that our show was much better than the first show which they held in Savannah. I visited the Savannah Show which was held in April, and I believe our show was almost as good as

theirs after their fourth year. Of course, we didn't have as many animals in the show, but, as a whole, our cattle were of higher quality. The Savannah Grand Champion sold for twenty-one cents per pound while the Asheville Grand Champion sold for seventeen cents per pound.

A Buncombe County farmer, Mr. J. M. Lynch, had the Grand Champion steer at the Asheville show. Buncombe County farmers also won all five places in the pen of four animals, and a few other individual places. Haywood County won more individual places than any other county. They had the best county group at the show.



Grand Champion - Asheville Fat Stock Show - October, 1935.

Until the prices the cattle brought were averaged, we felt that the farmers did not get enough for their cattle. After all figures were in, Mr. Case, Beef Cattle Specialist, made up the average and found that enough, considering the finish on them. The boys and farmers, as a whole,

were well pleased with the price they received for their cattle.

In March, Mr. Joe Burleson, of Barnardsville, bought forty-four head of registered Aberdeen-Angus cattle from Mr. Sanford at Mocksville. These cattle were in a poor, rundown condition, but because of their background of breeding and the price that he was paying for them, we felt that the cattle were well worth a third more than he paid for them. He has plenty of good pasture and the cattle have done well. He was offered a thousand dollars profit, but he refused to sell.

The farmers in Buncombe County shipped in five carload of steers from the West last spring and all of them netted a nice profit.

The farmers are improving their pasture land which has been lying idle and growing up since the real estate boom. This, of course, will help carry more cattle.

Farmers in general are stocking up with a better grade of cattle. The men at the Asheville Livestock Yards say that most of the scrubby animals that are being sold through the Yards are from South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia.

#### DAIRY FARMING

The dairy farmers in Buncombe County have a marketing organization that has helped the dairy farmers, especially the wholesale sweet milk producers. They realized the fact that over-production meant death and destruction to the dairymen, so they have regulated their production in such a way that they produced much less milk this year and received

more money for the smaller amount. We have one case in the county where a farmer has received over two hundred dollars per month from his sale of milk produced from ten cows.

The majority of dairymen have already had their cows tested for Bang's Disease, and the rest have signed up to have theirs tested. Since all the pure-bred breeders are testing their cattle, it will be possible to exchange bulls, or for a small dairyman who has had his herd tested to breed his cows to a proven bull or one that is from good producers on both his dam's side and his sire's side.

#### Use of Silos

Several of the small dairymen are realizing the need and value of silage, and are using the trench silo to store this valuable feed. This year we dug six trench silos and erected four upright silos.

#### 4-H CLUBS

##### A. Guernsey Calf Club

In March, the 4-H Club boys began to buy their Guernsey calves for their club work. Calves were scarce and the prices were high. For a while, it looked as if it was going to be difficult to get enough calves for the boys that wanted them, and who, we felt, needed them, as well as give the animals the attention that was necessary. However, through Mr. Farham and the Extension Department, the sale at Tryon was held and we finished out our number from that sale by purchasing two heifers that Mr. Roy Goodman, County Agent, had consigned to the sale. The following



picture of the boys with their calves was taken just after the sale.



The two calves helped make up the county group that won first place at the State Fair last October. You will see their picture with group later. They have developed quite a bit since the date of purchase.

Our 4-H Guernsey Calf Club was made up of the boys from various parts of the county. Nine of these boys exhibited their calves at the State Fair. One of the boys died on Friday before we shipped the calves on Saturday. For that reason the other calf did not get to the Fair. On the following page is a picture of the Buncombe County group taken after they had won first place at the State Fair.

## BUNCOMBE COUNTY 4-H GUERNSEY CALF CLUB



This group of Buncombe County 4-H Guernsey calves, pictured above, won many honors at the North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh. The boys who raised the calves include, left to right: Luke Cash, Juno; Weaver Cook, Juno; Samuel H. Carter, Democrat; Earl Trull, Asheville, R. 4; Lee Mancy, Barnardsville; John Parker, Asheville, R. 4, and Buncombe County Farm Agent A. W. Nesbitt.

The following is a list of the prizes won by Buncombe County  
at the State Fair:

CHEESEHEADS

Females - Senior Calves

Weaver Cook	3rd place	\$6.00
John Parker	4th place	5.00
Luke Cook	5th place	4.00
Sam Carter	6th place	3.00
Harvey Hill	7th place	2.00

Females - Junior Yearling

Earl Trull	5th place	\$5.00
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Females - Senior Yearling

Thomas McKenzie	3rd place	\$7.00
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Females - 2 years to 3 years

David Kimble	1st place	\$10.00
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Females - 3 years and over

Bud Rice	1st place	\$10.00
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County Group

Buncombe	1st place	\$55.00
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Senior Champion

Bud Rice		\$5.00
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Grand Champion

Bud Rice		\$10.00
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Special Guernsey Premium

County 4-H Club as a whole	\$20.00
Calves won in open classes	11.00

JUDGING

Dairying	3rd place	\$2.00
All livestock	4th place	Ribbon

Members of Judging Team

Sam Carter  
John Parker  
Weaver Cook

B. 4-H Beef Cattle Project

We had a few boys who fed beef calves this year. Most of them, as well as the farmers who fed calves for the show, did not put the animals on full feed early enough to get them finished out in time for the show. Eugene Brigmon fed an Angus steer that won third place.

The judges brought out the fact that the calves were not well finished. I believe the boys and the farmers were taught the best lesson in regard to feeding cattle by seeing the cattle placed and by hearing the judges give their reasons for placing the animals as they did.

This coming year, we will have more calves and they will be finished out much better than those of last year.

### C. 4-H Corn Project

This year we had only a few 4-H corn projects, but those we did have were profitable to the members who participated. We had an average production of approximately seventy bushels per acre for the six projects conducted. It is interesting to note just how close each boy came to the seventy bushel average. No boy was more than five bushels under the average nor more than seven bushels over the average.

### POULTRY

Several of the poultrymen in the county have been working together for some time in marketing their eggs. The practice proved both helpful and profitable to those taking part. This year the group was incorporated under the cooperative law as the Mountain Egg Producer's Association. The members are working together with a fine spirit. Each member has something good to say about the association and about the other members of the organization.

The poultrymen who had demonstration flocks in Western North Carolina averaged several eggs more per bird than those in the Piedmont and Coastal sections. This is enough proof that Western North Carolina is adapted to poultry raising and the production of eggs.

### ENTOMOLOGY

Although we had only a medium flow of honey this year, the honey was all of a high quality. A few men reported a production of one hundred-and-fifty to two hundred pounds of honey per hive.

Mr. A. K. Queen, of Candler, produced more sourwood honey than other farmer in the county. The honey from his hives brought from twenty to twenty-five cents per pound for his entire crop. Mr. Queen is very careful about disease, and keeps good, young, laying queens in his hives. It might be interesting to know that he makes his own anti-freeze by boiling together equal parts of water and honey. The mixture will not freeze at zero. A mixture of two parts honey and one part water will not freeze at twenty degrees below zero. Low-grade honey may be used to make this anti-freeze.

Mr. Carland, on the Sweeten Creek Road, is one of the largest bee keepers in the county. One of our best meetings was held at his farm this year, with an attendance of about fifty bee keepers from four counties.

#### AGRICULTURE

##### A. Tobacco

We have one grower in the county who for some time has been producing tobacco seed of the root-rot resistant type. Tobacco producers in the various counties report that they got better results by using his seed than from seed produced elsewhere.

The seed are re-cleaned, tested, and packed under the supervision of Mr. E. Y. Floyd. More of the seed have been sold this year than is usually the case, so we expect to have more information on the value of these seed.

### B. Wheat

The majority of the farmers who are growing wheat, treated their seed before seeding. Several of them used certified seed, while others used their own seed grown from certified seed the year before. One farmer sold all the seed he produced for one dollar and seventy-five cents per bushel on the farm. A greater number of farmers than usual sowed wheat this fall.

### C. Corn

The Holcombe brothers had a nice crop of Holcombe's Prolific Corn this year. This corn has been developed in Buncombe County by the Holcombes. Various tests show that it will produce a greater yield per acre here than other varieties. Some of the boys in Mr. J. F. Corbin's Vocational Agriculture classes produced a little better than one hundred and thirty-one bushels of corn per acre this year, using Holcombe's Prolific Corn. All the 4-H Club boys used Holcombe's certified seed corn in planting their corn projects.

### FORESTRY

According to Mr. Graeber, Extension Forester, we planted more trees this year than any previous year.

The various schools in the county planted some trees, mainly pine, on the school property. The Vocational departments planted locust and pine on school grounds and school water-sheds. These departments were aided by Mr. Graeber and myself in their timber thinning and timber stand improvement projects also.

The farmers planted locust, white pine, and chestnut. A total of more than ten thousand trees were planted during the year. This coming year, we plan to set out several times as many trees as we planted last year.

#### HORTICULTURE

Farmers are beginning to see the value of spraying their fruit trees, especially the apples. Farmers sold their apples on the tree this year at prices ranging from seventy-five cents to a dollar per bushel. Of course, this price was for the improved varieties. A few farmers put their apples in cold storage last fall and are expecting a good price for them.

Farmers who have orchards have visited the demonstration orchard at the State Experiment Station at Swannanoa, and have received much help from Mr. Clapp who is always ready to give any information that is useful to the farmer. Men who are just starting a young orchard have been greatly benefitted by the demonstration orchard, especially in regard to heading and pruning.

#### COMMUNITY FAIRS

##### A. Candler

The Hoiny Valley Fair was one of the best community fairs I have ever attended. The members of the community worked well together in successfully holding this fair. All departments were well represented, and the exhibits were very worthwhile.



### B. Red Oak

This was Red Oak's second year in putting on a community fair. There was a great deal of improvement in every way over the fair held there last year.

### RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Buncombe County already has several electric lines in the rural section, enabling a number of farmers to enjoy the use of electricity in their homes.

Surveys were made to locate other lines in the sections in which there is a great demand for electricity. Some of these lines have already been built, with prospects good for others being put in soon.

### SOIL EROSION CONTROL

In January, three terracing demonstrations were held on the Buncombe County Home farm. The various tractor companies demonstrated their machines and together terraced the farm. It was said that these were the first terraces to be built in Western North Carolina. At one demonstration, there were three hundred and twenty-five farmers attending, as well as several Extension workers and TVA men. The steep slope of our soil and the size of the average farm were determining factors in the decision not to purchase a terracing unit for Buncombe County. However, the farmers are using more cover crops than ever before in order to hold their soil and prevent erosion.

In February, we began holding meetings and electing committeemen in the various communities to make plans and select the demonstration farms, and cooperate with the TVA in using the triple superphosphate. We had no trouble in getting the farmers to cooperate and use their farms, because the majority of the farmers offered their farms for demonstration purposes. We started our program by selecting only ten farms in ten different communities. At the present time, we have forty-four demonstration farms in the county, and plan to start soon on water-shed projects.

The Soil Conservation Program, through cooperation with the TVA, is one of the best programs to help the farmer improve his pasture land, which, in turn, will help to improve the livestock, and if carried out properly, will improve the land for future generations.

The Buncombe County Soil Conservation and Land Use Association is well organized and holds a meeting the first Saturday in each month.

The following is a picture of the terracing work as it was being carried out on the Buncombe County Home farm.

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NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

March, 1935 to  
December, 1935

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C. J. RICH  
Assistant County Agent

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#### TVA PROGRAM IN BUNCOMBE COUNTY

The work of the Assistant County Agent was begun during March, 1935. This program is being carried on through the cooperation of the North Carolina Extension Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority, and is for the purpose of promoting soil conservation and better land use.

Our organization, known as the Buncombe County Soil Conservation and Land Use Association, consists, at present, of a county committee and fifteen community committees. The total membership of these committees is fifty-eight, with twenty-one additional demonstration farmers as members of the association, making a total membership of seventy-nine. Twenty-three members of the committees are also demonstration farmers, making a total of forty-four demonstration farms.

These farms represent a total of fifty-nine hundred and three tenths acres and have received one hundred and sixty-nine and four-tenths tons of triple superphosphate for application on twenty-five hundred and thirty and five-tenths acres.

In the winter and early spring of 1935, the demonstration farm program was begun with ten farms which were selected by the community committees in the various sections of the county. The original ten demonstration farms received a total of forty and five one-hundredths tons of triple superphosphate in May, 1935.

The first ten farms chosen for demonstration purposes are as follows:

<u>Township</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Ivy	S. H. Carter
Flat Creek	J. A. England
Swannanoa	C. H. Alexander
Fairview	W. C. Alexander
Fairview	C.A. Thrasher & R.B. Fuller
Leicester	D. M. Snelson
Leicester	County Home Farm
Avery Creek	J. G. Johnston
Upper Hominy	A. E. Queen
Upper Hominy	M. W. Roberson

Beginning in July, 1935, with instructions from the North Carolina Extension Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority, additional demonstration farms were chosen by the community committees. To December 1, 1935, a total of forty-four farms had been approved. The thirty-four additional farms are as follows:

<u>Township</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Limestone	L. C. Clayton
Lower Hominy	Pisgah Industrial Institute
Broad River	Rector Ledbetter
Fairview	A. B. Harrison
Fairview	P. J. Herron
Asheville	Ellis C. Jones

<u>Township</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Asheville	A. L. Roberts
Asheville	John M. James
Upper Hominy	C. C. Morgan
Upper Hominy	William M. Ledford
Upper Hominy	J. A. Bradshaw
Flat Creek	J. F. Clevenger
Flat Creek	Fred C. Hunter
Reems Creek	E. D. Weaver
Reems Creek	J. T. Garrison
French Broad	Fletcher Martin
French Broad	C. A. Sluder
French Broad	F. B. Hill
French Broad	H. C. Bridges
French Broad	L. A. Sluder
French Broad	M. J. Sluder
French Broad	M. C. Snelson
French Broad	Wiley Bridges
Leicester	D. L. Shook
Leicester	C. C. Cook
Leicester	Miller Ramsey
Leicester	D. F. Cole
Leicester	E. G. Roberson



<u>Township</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Leicester	H. M. Morgan
Leicester	H. A. Moss
Leicester	A. C. Rogers
Leicester	O. M. Clark
Leicester	C. A. Ferguson
Leicester	L. D. Ratcliff

#### PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

A few of the items in the plans for the coming year include:

A meeting of the Buncombe County Soil Conservation and Land Use Association in January, with the possibility of regular meetings thereafter.

The sponsoring by this organization of a county-wide program of soil conservation.

The sponsoring of this organization of a closer contact between the demonstration farmers in an educational way.

The appointment or election of committees from the members of the association to be responsible for such activities as: tours, forestry program, pasture program, home improvements, etc.

A continued increase in the number of demonstration farms until enough have been approved to be a good representation of the farming conditions or types in the county.

The approval of several water-shed projects.

## POULTRY

Poultrymen in various parts of the county have been visited and poultry record books were placed with most of them.

Contact has been made with the following poultrymen:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Swannanoa	Henry Wood
Black Mountain	C. F. Betts
Fairview	Hood Van Gen Arend
Fairview	W. R. Freeman
Skyland	W. K. Pike

## FORESTRY

Mr. R. W. Graeber, State Extension Forester, and I visited the Sand Hill School in Lower Hominy Township and the Flat Creek School in Flat Creek Township, at which Mr. Graeber made talks to the high school pupils.

Demonstrations in timber thinning were held on the following farms:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Swannanoa	C. H. Alexander
Juno	C. C. Cook
Lower Hominy	American Enka Corporation

One Stand Setting demonstration was conducted with the boys at the Leicester High School. The demonstration was conducted on the school property.

One acre was marked out on the Buncombe County Boys' Home farm to be used as a demonstration in thinning and management.

#### AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Through the cooperation of the various tractor companies in demonstrating their terracing machinery, terraces were built on the Buncombe County Home farm.

Terraces were run out on the following farms in the county:

<u>Township</u>	<u>Owner</u>
Fairview	Z. V. Williams
Upper Hominy	Homer Mince

#### FARM IMPROVEMENT

Instructions and suggestions on the installation of a Rife Hydraulic Ram were given Mr. J. T. Garrison of Reems Creek Township.