

NORTH CAROLINA

Burke County Annual Report County Agricultural Agent 1939

Index		Page
1 d 3.1042	Curb market	16
4 h 1.5	Poultry management	13
6 e 8.15	Soil conservation service	18
• 6 j 1.1	History county agricultural	21,26
8 b 1.5	Cotton variety standardization	10
8 c 10	Lespedeza	6,7
10 f 3	Selective cutting	12

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REPORT FILES
EXTENSION WORK

1939

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

NARRATIVE REPORT

ROBERT L. SLOAN, COUNTY AGENT

BURKE COUNTY

MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA

1939

COUNTY AGENT ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	1
Table of Contents	2
Summary of Activities	3
Status of County Extension Organization	4
Program of Work, Project Activities	
Cereals	5,6
Legumes	6,7,8
Potatoes	9
Cotton	9,10
Tobacco	11
Fruits and Vegetables	11,12
Forestry	12
Engineering	13
Poultry	13
Bees	14
Dairy	14,15
Beef Cattle	15
Swine	15
Farm Management	16
Marketing	16
Agricultural Conservation Program	17,18
Soil Conservation	18
Other Agencies	18
Outlook and Recommendations	19,20
History of Extension Work in Burke County	21,22,23 24,25,26

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

During the year ending December first, 1939, the County Agent spent two hundred forty days in field work and sixty-six days in office work. Twelve thousand eight hundred twenty miles were traveled to make four hundred fifty one farm visits and attend seventy meetings. In the office four thousand three hundred five calls were received and three thousand one hundred sixty letters written in addition to preparing forty-one circular letters of which nine thousand copies were mailed out. Specialists assisted with work in the county twenty-seven days during the year. A more detailed report of the work by projects follows:

	Days Agent's Time	Demon- strations	Farm Visits Made	Office Calls Received	Farms Influenced (est.)
Corn	11	2	25	41	500
Wheat	5	0	1	55	300
Legumes	33	10	32	392	700
Potatoes	1	1	0	2	10
Cotton	28	5	44	644	400
Tobacco	6	0	11	35	6
Yard Beautification	1	0	2	5	2
Orchards	13	4	28	61	20
Vineyards	3	1	2	6	5
Forestry	13	5	20	70	50
Engineering	14	8	21	70	5
Poultry	36	8	64	128	50
Bees	12	7	29	99	40
Dairy	36	6	78	142	35
Beef Cattle	3	1	5	5	2
Swine	2	0	1	10	2
Farm Management	7	3	2	28	3
Marketing	12	1	3	0	100
Public Problems	25	0	33	1306	100
Ext. Organization	22	0	30	1177	100
Entomology	1	1	2	0	2
Community Activities	17	0	18	29	200
Soil Conservation	5	0	0	0	5
Agr. Cons. Program	102	0	118	3486	1500

-4-

1

STATUS OF COUNTY EXTENSION ORGANIZATION

Agricultural Extension Work in Burke County is fostered by the Board of County Commissioners consisting of five elected members cooperating with North Carolina State College of Agriculture, Extension Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

In developing the work local people have acted as local leaders, as demonstrators, and in addition have influenced many of their neighbors to adopt better farm practices advocated by the County Agent. Local people in different sections of the county have been consulted from time to time concerning the needs of their communities that might be reached by Extension Workers including the County Agent and Specialists from State College.

The general policy of the County Agent has been to develop and use as demonstrations those projects in which the owners already displayed an unusual interest. An effort has been made to follow up demonstrations started in previous years and at the same time try to interest more people in better practices.

PROGRAM OF WORK

CEREALS: The largest acreage devoted to any one farm crop in Burke County is devoted to corn, there being about fifteen thousand acres of corn grown in Burke County in 1939. The corn crop over most of the county was good to excellent with an average yield for the county of about twenty-one bushels. Some of the upland corn suffered from drought which reduced the yield, but practically all of the bottom land corn made a bumper crop. Corn growers are rapidly adopting the policy of growing corn in rotation following a legume crop. The principal legumes used for this purpose are lespedeza, soybeans, and cowpeas.

Two corn variety tests were conducted this year, one on upland and one on bottom land. Thirteen of the leading varieties of corn were used in these tests. The three highest yielding varieties on bottom land were Cooke's Prolific with 78.8 bushels per acre, McGinsey's Prolific with 75.7 bushels per acre, and Holcombe's Prolific with 73.7 bushels per acre. The three leading varieties on upland were Wood's Hybrid Golden Prolific with 55.7 bushels per acre, Jarvis Prolific with 30.7 bushels per acre, and Wood's Hybrid Extra Early Yellow Dent with 29.7 bushels per acre. Averaging results for the two tests the three leading varieties are Cooke's Prolific with 54.1 bushels per acre, Wood's Hybrid Golden Prolific with 51.9 bushels per acre, and Holcombe's Prolific with 49.9 bushels per acre.

SUMMARY OF CORN VARIETY TESTS

1939

BURKE COUNTY

VARIETIES	Bushels Ear Corn Per Acre		Average Bushels of Ear Corn
	McGinsey	Rector	
Cooke's Prolific	78.8	29.4	54.1
Wood's Hybrid Golden Prolific	70.2	33.7	51.9
Rector's Southern Beauty Local, McGinsey's Special	75.7	27.6	51.6
Holcombe's Prolific	73.7	26.1	49.9
Jarvis Prolific	68.5	30.7	49.6
Weekley's Improved	67.1	31.9	49.5
Wood's Hybrid Yellow Dent	70.0	28.2	49.1
Wood's Hybrid Extra Early Yellow Dent	68.0	29.7	48.8
Local	66.8	28.5	47.6
Wilkes County White	67.7	27.3	47.5
Wood's Hybrid White Dent	62.0	29.1	45.5
Bigg's Swannanoa	60.0	24.8	42.4
Indian Chief	57.7	26.4	42.0

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

Wheat was harvested from nearly eight thousand acres in Burke County this year and the average yield was about thirteen bushels per acre, being a little better than an average wheat crop. Lespedeza was seeded on more than six thousand acres of this wheat land. Farmers regard lespedeza as the most valuable crop ever introduced into the county to be used in controlling erosion and it is ordinarily seeded on small grain, of which wheat is the leading crop. Wheat is an important crop in the county not only because of its own value for grain but because it lends itself so well to a rotation in which it is the nurse crop for lespedeza which in turn is an outstanding soil conserving crop.

Other cereals produced in the county include oats, rye, and barley each of which demand some time from the County Agent principally in the form of office calls for information on varieties, source of seed, fertilization, and general management.

LEGUMES: Of the many legumes that can be grown in Burke County lespedeza, in the few years since its introduction, has easily taken first place. Lespedeza lends itself to many uses, the most outstanding of which are soil improvement, hay production, pasture, erosion control, and seed production, each of which is of considerable value and when combined their value to the agriculture of the county is enormous. The

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

use of seeding has encouraged the expansion of acreage devoted to this crop as it is usually seeded on land prepared for and seeded to a small grain crop without further preparation and usually without further fertilization, though lespedeza responds well to applications of lime, acid phosphate, and other plant food materials. The principal variety grown at the present time within the county is Korean though Linn has been equally popular where tried and will doubtless come into greater use as seed become more readily available. The perennial variety, Sericea, has been tried in many localities but the total acreage has remained quite small. There is in Burke County about twelve thousand acres of lespedeza, about eight thousand seeded this year and about four thousand previously seeded. Of this acreage it is estimated that about nine thousand acres is Korean and about three thousand acres Kobe, with probably twenty-five acres of Sericea and a few hundred acres of pasture seeded to Common.

The growing of cowpeas and soybeans has been stimulated through the Agricultural Conservation Association to the point of seeding about four thousand acres in corn for the purpose of improving the soil for the benefit of succeeding crops. Some of this seeding is done by planting alternate hills in the same row, some of it by planting alternate rows of corn and peas, and some of it by broadcasting the peas or beans or a mixture of the

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

two in the corn at the time of the last cultivation of corn which serves the dual purpose of cultivating the corn and covering the peas and beans. Prior to the introduction of lespedeza, cowpeas and red clover were the principal soil improving crops used in the county. Then soybeans were introduced and they vied with cowpeas for honors. Then there followed a period of rapid decline in popularity of red clover, cowpeas, and soybeans, while lespedeza was rapidly increasing in popularity. Cowpeas and soybeans under stimulus of the Agricultural Conservation Program are regaining some of their lost popularity, while red clover has almost vanished from the county. The total acreage of legumes has increased considerably in recent years, and the most of the increase is in lespedeza, cowpeas, and soybeans.

Other legume crops grown in Burke County include alfalfa, sweet clover, red clover, alsike clover, crimson clover, vetch, Austrian winter peas, crotalaria, kudzu, and peanuts, all of which are of secondary importance though possessing merit and value to the agriculture of the county. Pasture mixtures are gaining in popularity and nearly all seedings for pasture contain lespedeza and White Dutch Clover of the legume family in addition to grasses. The principal work with legumes has been the giving of information and advice on liming, seeding, and utilizing the crop.

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

POTATOES: The production of sweet and Irish potatoes in the county is primarily for home consumption. The County Agent is occasionally called upon for information on varieties, fertilization, and curing or saving the crop. While some small amounts of potatoes are sold within the county the bulk of the crop is consumed by the family producing them, and in addition to the almost two thousand farmers in the county who grow potatoes there are almost as many city dwellers who grow potatoes, either Irish or sweet, or both.

COTTON: The cotton yield per acre in Burke County this year is thought to be the best since the introduction of cotton growing into the county. Weather conditions were favorable for cotton production throughout the planting, growing, and harvesting period. The fall was extremely favorable being dry and warm which caused all bolls to open. Improved varieties, better fertilization, and better cultural practices account for part of the increase. Five hundred and thirty-eight farms in the county received an allotment of 1,748.5 acres to be planted to cotton this year under the Agricultural Conservation Program. Of this amount 1,026.3 acres were actually planted and from them a preliminary estimate places the average yield of lint cotton harvested at 360 pounds per acre. Several farmers have reported yields in excess of 500 pounds of lint per acre.

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

Three cotton variety tests were conducted during the year in different sections of the county comparing eleven of the most highly recommended varieties of cotton grown in this section. The highest yield per acre was obtained with Coker 100-Strain 3, making an average yield of 1,540 pounds of seed cotton per acre. The second highest yield was made with Stoneville 2-B, yielding 1,456 pounds of seed cotton per acre. The third highest yield was made with Coker 100-Strain 2, yielding 1,390 pounds of seed cotton per acre. For more complete report of cotton variety tests see attached tabulated report.

Work with cotton under the Agricultural Conservation Program made heavy demands upon the County Agent's time. Handling the Conservation Program as it relates to cotton with the consequent dissemination of information on acreage allotments and reasons for allotments, the checking of compliance, and the execution of applications for payment under this Program constituted a big undertaking. Then there was the Cotton Price Adjustment Program, the Marketing Quota Program, and Cotton Referendum, all of which required much time and study.

SUMMARY OF COTTON VARIETY TESTS

1939

BURKE COUNTY

Varieties	POUNDS OF SEED COTTON PER ACRE			Average Pounds of Seed Cotton
	Burns	Chapman	Gurley	
Local	1280	1120	1000	1160
Coker 100 Strain 1	1300			1300
Coker 100 Strain 2	1660		1120	1390
Coker 100 Strain 3		1820	1260	1540
Wannamaker, Wonder Dixie Triumph	1160	1600	1120	1293
Mexican 128 6-B	1200	1360	1120	1254
Stoneville 2 B	1500	1670	1200	1456
Woods, E. & P. L. 11-A	1320		1040	1180
Woods, Ingold	1240		720	980
Woods, Early Trice	1240		920	1080
The Georgia Special	1160		1060	1110

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

TOBACCO: Burley tobacco was produced on six farms in Burke County this year and flue cured was produced on one farm. The County Agent was called on for advice on varieties, fertilization, and cultural practices. A referendum was conducted on marketing quotas for flue cured and Burley producers separately. Checking compliance on tobacco farms in connection with the Agricultural Conservation Program was a part of the work. Burke County is situated on a dividing line between the flue cured and Burley tobacco producing sections and as a result the eastern part of the county has some interest in flue cured while the western part of the county is interested in Burley tobacco production.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: Tree fruits are planted on all farms in the county for home use with about twenty-five farms producing fruit to sell. One of the greatest needs of agriculture in the county at the present time is better care of the home orchard. While all farmers buy and set some trees no farmers are giving their trees proper care. In this line of work the County Agent is called upon for information on varieties, pruning, spraying, grafting, fertilization, tillage, and other problems. All farmers and most town dwellers in Burke County plant a garden to help supply the home table with fresh vegetables. Vegetables found in most gardens include beans of many varieties, beets, cabbage, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, okra, onions, peas, potatoes, tomatoes, and turnips. In addition, asparagus, carrots, kale, mustard, rhubarb, spinach, and many other vegetables are grown to a lesser extent. The vegetable diet

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

of this section is built around beans, corn, and potatoes. The principal requests for assistance from gardeners are for recommendation of adapted varieties, fertilization, and advice on insect and disease control measures.

FORESTRY: Fifty different farms in Burke County conducted timber stand improvement demonstrations by removing the cull trees and saving the better trees on an average of three and a half acres each for a total of one hundred seventy-five acres to qualify for payment at the rate of three dollars per acre through the Agricultural Conservation Association this year. This is a practice that every farmer can adopt where firewood is used as it is easy to improve the timber stand while getting firewood for home use or market by the process of selective cutting, selecting the cull trees to cut for firewood and selecting the better trees to grow into timber. The better trees will then grow more rapidly by reason of absence of competition from the cull trees. Two demonstrations in planting a total of five acres of White Pine came through the summer with an eighty per cent survival and are expected to make a better growth next year than this. Last year's plantings are also still being supervised. Interest is growing in forestry management and especially that phase of it where the cull trees are removed while obtaining firewood which results in timber stand improvement.

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

ENGINEERING: In the field of engineering the principal work accomplished during the year in Burke County was done through furnishing information and plans on brooder houses, laying houses, silos, barn remodelling, and soil erosion control. Organization and general supervision of the supervisors checking compliance and mapping seventeen hundred farms in the Agricultural Conservation Association required considerable time and thought of the County Agent.

POULTRY: About seventy thousand hens are kept on farms in Burke County with an annual crop of more than one hundred thousand baby chicks hatched and reared for home consumption, market, and replacement. One hatchery in the county turned out some two hundred thousand high class baby chicks this year, many of which went into other counties. Developing along with the hatchery has been the supply flocks supplying eggs to the hatchery. These supply flocks are purebreds with proper color and type for the breed, blood tested for bacillary white diarrhoea, and rigidly culled for type and production and properly mated with sufficient selected male birds. Other factors in the poultry industry that have grown since with the hatchery and breeding flocks has been earlier hatching, better housing, better feeding, and better parasite and disease control, all of which are recognized as good poultry practices. Assistance was rendered in vaccinating fifteen hundred pullets on five farms in June and July to immunize them against outbreaks of chicken pox during the fall and winter. The County Agent with four leading poultrymen attended the World's Poultry Congress in Cleveland, Ohio, in July.

BURKE COUNTY DEMONSTRATION POULTRY FLOCK
SUMMARY 1936-39

Month	Total Farms	Total number birds	Birds per farm	Total eggs for month	Eggs per bird	Per cent production	Total feed cost	Feed cost per farm	Feed Cost		Total pounds grain	Total pounds mash
									per doz. eggs	per bird		
Oct.	6	1201	200	12290	10.73	34.6	209.32	34.72	.192	.173	3630	6800
Nov.	6	1174	196	14255	12.14	40.5	202.70	33.78	.170	.172	3400	6600
Dec.	5	895	179	9746	10.82	35.1	167.15	33.43	.205	.186	3180	6000
Jan.	5	966	193	13359	13.82	44.5	173.51	34.70	.155	.179	3145	6316
Feb.	5	976	195	14531	14.38	53.1	137.54	27.51	.115	.140	3296	5716
Mar.	5	979	176	18792	21.37	66.9	153.75	30.75	.099	.174	2180	6000
Apr.	4	623	157	13360	21.27	70.9	95.70	23.92	.086	.152	1525	3060
May	2	436	218	8999	20.63	66.5	61.55	40.77	.106	.187	790	2850
June	1	156	156	2560	16.20	54.0	31.30	31.30	.146	.196	700	800
July	1	156	156	2170	13.91	44.3	29.75	29.75	.164	.190	650	750
Aug.	1	153	153	2295	15.00	48.3	28.37	28.37	.151	.186	625	750
Sept.	1	155	155	2430	13.13	43.7	37.35	37.35	.183	.201	900	900
	<u>42</u> 3.5	7807 661	185	115399	177	46.4	1347.49	38.49	.140	2.06	23382	41032

BIRDS

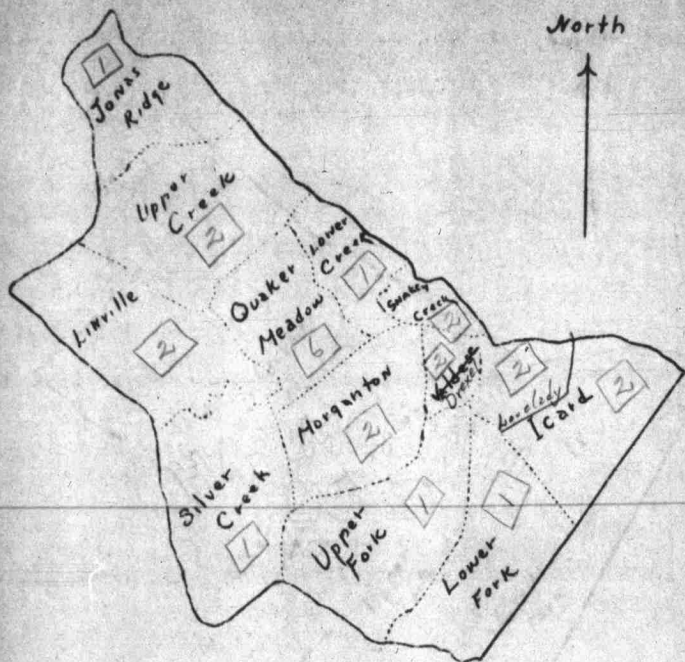
Pounds Feed per bird		Pounds Grain and mash to produce doz. eggs	Highest price per doz. eggs	Lowest price per doz. eggs	Average sale price per doz. eggs	Value of eggs produced		Return Above Feed Cost			
Grain	Mash					Total	Per farm	Per bird	Total	Per farm	Per bird
3.0	5.4	9.4	.364	.275	.320	344.70	57.45	.297	133.35	22.73	.114
2.8	5.6	8.4	.373	.280	.344	402.25	68.21	.348	206.55	34.43	.176
3.5	5.5	10.0	.362	.279	.349	284.01	56.90	.517	116.95	23.37	.131
3.2	5.5	7.6	.512	.251	.293	315.79	63.16	.325	142.23	23.45	.147
5.3	3.8	5.7	.528	.190	.265	323.00	64.60	.530	185.45	37.09	.190
2.4	5.5	4.5	.350	.180	.224	350.95	70.19	.599	197.21	39.44	.225
2.4	4.8	4.1	.275	.165	.210	234.14	56.53	.372	138.44	34.51	.220
1.6	6.0	4.4	.212	.174	.136	139.37	69.53	.519	57.52	23.91	.132
4.4	5.0	7.0			.200	42.60	42.60	.269	11.90	11.90	.071
4.1	4.8	7.7			.220	39.80	39.80	.253	9.95	9.95	.063
4.0	4.9	7.1			.242	46.25	46.25	.302	17.35	17.35	.114
4.8	4.8	8.8			.553	67.80	30.45	.386	30.45	30.45	.165
36.5	63.0	6.7			.270	2597.43	74.21	3.98	1249.99	35.72	1.92

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

BEEES: Bees are found on about six hundred farms in the county and are usually to be found in old fashioned box hives with a few in still older fashioned sections of hollow logs. The use of modern movable frame hives is practiced on about one hundred of these farms. Every year finds a few new bee keepers adopting modern hives and calling on the County Agent for information and advice on hives and equipment, transferring from old box hives to movable frame hives, swarm control, disease treatment, and requeening. The honey crop in Burke County this year was the shortest it has been for the last fifteen years, and probably much longer.

DAIRY: Extension work in dairying includes practices in better breeding, better housing, better feeding, better pastures, and exhibition. One or more head of cattle are kept on two thousand of the farms in the county. Introduction of purebred bulls has improved the native stock of cattle very much during the past ten years. The Burke County Guernsey Breeders Association held their sixth annual purebred cattle show in Morganton September 20, and 21, with sixty-five animals exhibited from twenty-four farms. A banquet meeting held in connection with the show and attended by about eighty breeders and their friends constituted one of the most important agricultural meetings held in the county during the year. Judging was done by Professor J. P. LaMaster, Head of The Dairy Division at Clemson College, South Carolina, while E. C. Bates, Southern Field Representative of The American Guernsey Cattle Club, delivered the principal address at the banquet meeting. A few purebred animals are sold

BURKE COUNTY



Number of farms breeding improved dairy cattle by townships

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

each year as a result of the show. The business men of Morganton have been very generous in their support of the show donating merchandise premiums to the value of about two hundred dollars as an encouragement to the breeders who are striving to breed and grow better dairy cattle for themselves and their neighbors. The show was attended by several hundred interested spectators. Seven boys and four girls have selected as their project in 4-H work the growing of a purebred dairy cow. Each of these eleven 4-H club members had an exhibit at the County Show in Morganton. All cattle in the county six months old and over were tested for Bang's disease during the year and all reactors slaughtered immediately. Approximately six thousand animals were tested, of which number eight reacted to the test and were removed from the herds.

BEEF CATTLE: Mr. E. T. Bollinger, of Morganton, Route 1, is developing a herd of beef cattle and added to his herd during the year three high class registered Herefords, one male and two females, for breeding purposes.

SWINE: Occasional calls are received for information on disease control, parasite control, feeding, breeding, and other swine management problems.

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

FARM MANAGEMENT: A simple record book including receipts and expenses incurred in connection with farming operations is being kept by three farmers whose farms are designated as demonstration farms. The use of triple superphosphate in connection with the growing of soil conserving crops is being demonstrated on these farms. Better farming practices such as rotation of crops, terracing, better fertilization, diversified farming, livestock production, fruit growing, gardening, and home beautification are being encouraged along with simple record keeping.

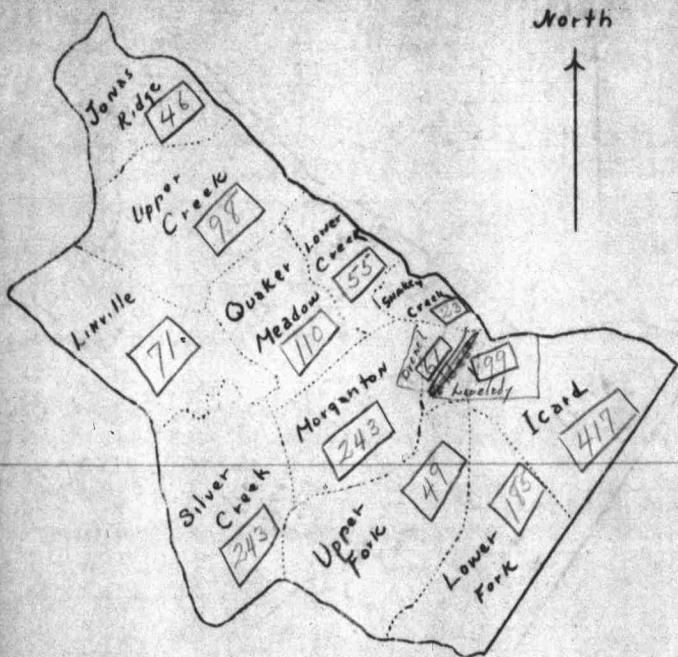
MARKETING: Some fifty beekeepers were assisted in obtaining desired bee supplies for improved hives. Twenty farm women have been assisted and encouraged in the operation of a curb market for country produce where about two hundred customers come to buy products of the farm such as poultry and dairy products, fruits and vegetables, canned and socked goods, and many other products of the farm and home. The market is open for a few hours in the fore-noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays and the average sales amount to about \$125.00 a week. Frequent calls are received for information and advice on buying and selling various farm products and necessities such as livestock, especially breeding stock, improved seeds of approved varieties and many other items.

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM: Payments received in the county in 1939 for participation in the 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program amounted to \$26,174.42 with 1,396 farms qualifying for payments. Compliance was checked on 1,772 farms out of 2,109 farms covered by work sheets in 1939. Of this number it is estimated that more than 1,500 can qualify for some payment in 1939. Cotton price adjustment payments amounting to approximately \$1,695.92 have been obtained for 298 cotton growers in the county on the 1938 crop. Marketing quotas have been obtained for 359 cotton growers for the 1939 crop and cards delivered to the producers. Referenda were conducted during the year for cotton growers and once each for Burley and flue cured tobacco growers.

Supervisors checking compliance reported 11,350 acres of non-depleting crops grown alone, 11,149 acres of non-depleting crops grown with or following depleting crops in the county this year, making a total of 22,499 acres of non-depleting or conserving crops grown on the 1,772 farms checked which is an average of about twelve acres of conserving crops per farm counting that grown alone and that grown in combination with a depleting crop. One thousand eight hundred fifty tons of lime were applied in preparation for soil improving crops and in addition several tons of basic slag and superphosphate were used. Fifty farmers thinned one hundred seventy-five acres of woodland to qualify for two units to the acre for timber stand improvement.

BURKE COUNTY



Farms participating in Agricultural Conservation Program

By Townships

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

The depleting acreage reported for farms checked was 12,280 acres of corn, 5,896 acres of wheat, 1,305 acres of oats, 1,026 acres of cotton, and 506 acres of other depleting crops.

Three hundred thirty-seven farms for which work sheets were prepared were not checked for compliance at the request of the operators.

SOIL CONSERVATION: The Soil Conservation Service entered Burke County during the year through a referendum submitted to land owners on a proposal to enlarge the Catawba Soil Conservation District to include all of Burke County. The County Agent and Committee of the Agricultural Conservation Association took an active part in organizing and arranging for the referendum. When the ballots were tabulated the results amounted to a landslide in favor of all of Burke County becoming a part of the existing Soil Conservation District. A branch office has been opened in Morganton and two men already assigned to work in Burke County.

OTHER AGENCIES: During the year occasional service has been rendered through cooperation with other agencies including the Farm Credit Administration, Farm Security Administration, Soil Conservation Service, County Welfare Department, and County Board of Health.

OUTLOOK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SOILS: Continue to urge the use of lime, legumes, deep fall plowing, balanced fertilizer, rotation of crops, and terracing.

FARM CROPS: Farm crop work will receive the greater part of its time through the Agricultural Conservation Program and Farm Management demonstration farms. Some additional time should be allowed in which to emphasize the importance of improved practices in the growing of farm crops.

HORTICULTURE: Timely information should be given through the press and otherwise on home gardens, home orchards, and to a lesser extent commercial orchards and gardens including small fruits, grapes, and berries.

DAIRYING: Some time should be given to timely information on feeding, breeding, marketing, silo construction, barn construction, and other phases of dairy management. The annual Guernsey Cattle Show should be continued.

POULTRY: Cooperation in developing supply breeding flocks for the local hatchery should be continued. Time should be allowed for advice on incubation, brooding, housing, feeding, parasite control, disease prevention, culling, sanitation, and other approved practices.

BREES: Continue to supervise demonstrations under way and allow some time for calls for information and advice from beginners.

MARKETING: The County Agent will be called upon to render service to farm people in both buying and selling. In selling farm produce the Country Market Association in Morganton should receive the assistance and encouragement of both the Farm and Home Agent. The Mutual Feed Store in Valdese may require some advice and assistance. Time should be allowed for other groups and individuals who are interested in problems of selling farm commodities. Time should also be allowed for problems of buying, especially determining sources of improved varieties of seeds of crops and vegetables, and livestock for breeding purposes.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM: The Agricultural Conservation Program has been a benefit to Burke County Agriculture and while it lasts will continue to require much of the County Agent's time for the proper dissemination of information and direction of its affairs.

HISTORY OF EXTENSION WORK IN BURKE COUNTY

1. Extension Work in Burke County began in 1912 with the appointment of R. E. Moore as local or county agent under joint sponsorship of The Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work for the Southern States, and the Board of County Commissioners for Burke County. E. S. Millsaps was district agent in charge supervising the work which consisted principally of corn growing demonstrations. The principal crops were corn and wheat. The main farm problem receiving the attention of the agent was that of increasing the per acre yield of corn through improved cultural practices. Mr. Moore served the county through 1912 and 1913 using a horse and buggy for transportation. In 1914 and 1915 the county was without the services of an Extension Worker but in 1916 the work was reinstated and E. L. Perkins appointed county agent. Mr. Perkins served through 1916, 1917, and part of 1918 during which time the world war was in progress, and in the summer of 1916 an unprecedented rain caused all local streams to rise to such an extent that all crops and much property and livestock along their courses were destroyed. While Mr. Perkins served the county farmers were beginning to think more of diversification, and the soybean was introduced into the agriculture of the county by Mr. Perkins, primarily for soil improvement. Mr. Perkins states (11-26-199) that the principal objective of his tenure of service was soil building by use of green manure crops with special emphasis on soybeans. Many other lines of work began to receive some attention during this period. The period 1919 through 1922 Burke County was without the services of an Extension Worker.

2. The first Extension Work was almost wholly individualistic. During that period the agent sought farmers who would agree to become demonstrators and follow recommended practices in the growing of an acre or more of corn. During the intervening years the concept of the work has enlarged, first to encourage diversified farming, and then to render service in all possible lines from emergencies arising out of war, pestilence, famine, or depression to breeding, selecting, and proving newer and better strains of crops and livestock. It has become increasingly necessary to seek the advice and counsel of local people who frequently give of their time and knowledge in determining policies.

3. In the beginning the program of work for a county was determined entirely by the county agent and his supervisors. Now committees of local leaders may request the work which in their judgment will be most beneficial to their county or community. Programs of work are then determined after careful study by various specialists promoting projects adaptable to the area.

4. Teaching methods in the beginning were confined to demonstrations. Present teaching methods have enlarged to include circular letters, individual letters, newspaper articles, radio talks, group meetings, clubs, and individual conversations, while still retaining some of the old result demonstrations and adapting them to practically all farm enterprises, and adding method demonstrations adapted to many farm enterprises. Local leaders frequently carry the teachings of extension workers to people beyond the reach of the regular extension workers.

5. Extension Work first brought to the people better tillage practices in corn growing, then a concept of improving the land by use of soil building crops before planting the corn, and more recently it has been broadened to cover many and varied services in the field of agriculture. One recent example relates to health, affecting both livestock and people. Bang's disease was accused of impairing the health and production of milk cows, and of being transmitted through milk to humans, in the towns and in the country alike. Something should be done about it. Representatives from both the farm and the town came to the county agent to help organize a movement to eradicate the disease. As a result of the movement all cattle in the county six months old and over have been tested for Bang's and all reactors slaughtered. The same procedure was followed some years ago with tuberculosis, following which all cattle in the county were tested. Another example relates to marketing country produce. Home owned grocery stores had nearly all gone out of business and the trade taken over by branch units of chain stores whose managers did not buy local produce as their predecessors had done. Some of the farmer's wives appealed to the local extension worker. By cooperation a plan was worked out for a curb market which is now in operation with about twenty sellers and more than a hundred customers. Many other important problems have found at least a partial solution through the cooperative effort the extension office has been able to effect.

6. (a) In the early days the agent would prevail upon a farmer to apply better cultural practices in the growing of corn. To this was added the growing and plowing under of soil building crops in rotation with corn and preceding the corn. There followed a general expansion of the work to include rotation of crops, using various soil building crops for any and all crops other than corn.

(b) The World War came and with it the slogan "Food will win the War". Patriotism was appealed to and the farmer responded with greater production of all staple food crops adapted to his farm. In addition to encouraging the farmer to produce more food and feed crops the county agent was expected to take part in selling War Saving Stamps, Liberty Bonds, Red Cross roll call, the parole of soldiers to farm, and many other emergency activities.

(c) The immediate post-war period found Burke County without the services of an extension worker. No agent was employed from 1918 until 1923.

(d) On the last day of January, 1923, the present county agent arrived in Morganton, a stranger, to take up work as county agent the next morning. Early efforts were directed towards 4-H Club Work, orchard development, poultry improvement, and cattle improvement through breeding. At this time radios had not entered the farm homes of Burke County. Automobiles, trucks, and tractors were very rare on farms. Roads became impassable with a short rainfall. Consolidated schools were only a dream. A movie was a rare treat for the farmer's family, and talking pictures had not even entered their imagination. Corn and wheat were the principal

crops sold and they were transported in wagons when the roads were dry. There were no large flocks of poultry, no large incubators, no dairies, and no conception of a milk inspection ordinance. Sweet milk and ice cream consumption per capita was very low. Many improvements, especially in the breeding, housing, and feeding of poultry and livestock, were taking place with the cooperation of the county agent before the end of this period.

(e) The New Deal entered Burke County through the cotton fields of about a dozen farmers in July, 1933. One fourth of their cotton was plowed under by these cotton farmers as a token of faith in the leadership of the New Deal. Burke County farms are small subsistence enterprises on the whole with very few producing cotton or other money crops and, therefore, the New Deal farm legislation held very little to allure the average farmer during those first years. But when the Supreme Court threw the first A. A. A. out the window and Congress enacted a new A. A. A. with emphasis on soil building practices then Burke County farmers saw its benefits to them. From 1933 through 1939 each year has found more Burke County farmers participating in the farm program than the previous year. The dozen who started in 1933 had grown to 1700 in 1939. And the benefits are considered much more far reaching than the payments to the farm for compliance, since production on a national scale is being adjusted and markets are no doubt influenced thereby. But the triple A is only one small part of the responsibility of Extension Work. All the accumulated assignments of past years remain at the doorstep of the Extension Office.

7. Extension work offers a great challenge to men and women as a life profession. Until I began doing extension work five months ago, I knew very little about the work. Yet in this short time I have found the work to be most interesting. There is certainly as great a need in the extension service for men and women who have the interests of the people with whom they work at heart, as in any other field which exists today. The problems of the farm people will be ever present and as a group the people are very appreciative of those who show a desire to help them.

Note: Sections one through six were prepared by County Agent R. L. Sloan. Section seven was prepared by the Home Agent, Mrs. Laura T. Russell.