

NORTH CAROLINA

HALIFAX COUNTY COUNTY AGENT ANNUAL REPORT 1940

Index

Page

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-------|
| 2 h 4 | Machinery-Harvesting..... | 11-12 |
| 4 a 1.3 | Beef Cattle-Purebred Stock..... | 24 |
| 8 e 5.7 | Farm Security Administration... | 11-12 |
| * 8 h 4.2 | Campaigns-Crops..... | 16-21 |
| * 9 d 1.3 | Cotton-Cultural Practices..... | 16-21 |
| 9 d 1.5 | Cotton-Variety Standardization. | 16-21 |
| 9 i 1 | Seed Certification..... | 15 |

FCL-7



NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

COUNTY AGENT WORK

HALIFAX COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

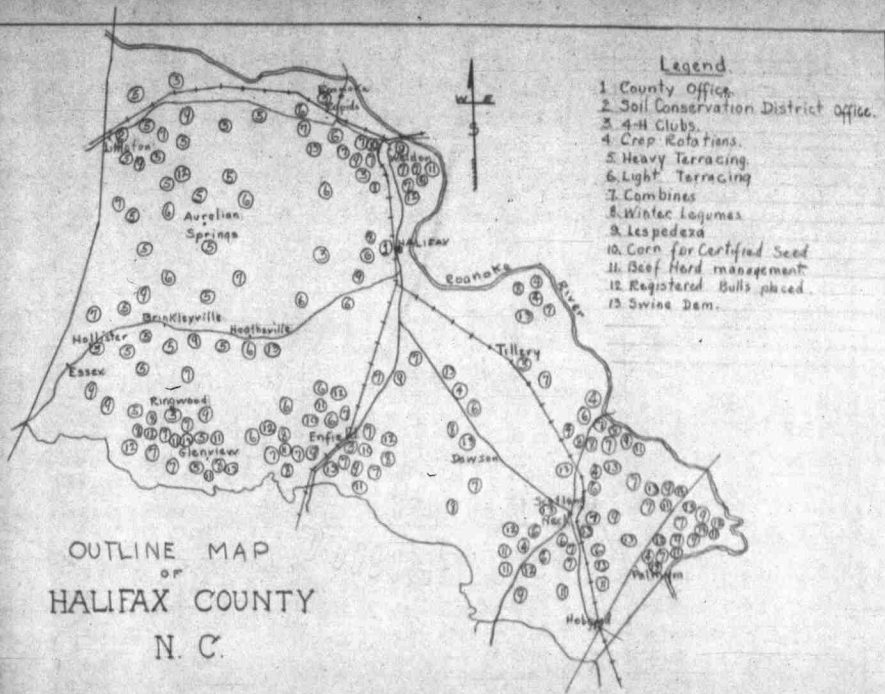
December 1st, 1939 to November 30, 1940

W. O. Davis, County Agent, Weldon, N. C.

F. W. Reams, Assistant County Agent,
Scotland Neck, N. C.

COUNTY AGENT ANNUAL REPORT

OUTLINE MAP
OF
HALIFAX COUNTY
N. C.



I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK.

Extension work in Agriculture in Halifax County is conducted as a cooperative project between Halifax County, North Carolina State College, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

A. PERSONNEL:

During 1940 the Extension Personnel was as follows: Home Agent, Mrs. Hazel E. Wheeler, Roanoke Rapids, N. C., Assistant Home Agent, Miss Ona Patterson, Halifax, N. C., from December 1, 1939 to September 1, 1940, and Miss Lydia Dayton, Halifax, N. C. from September 1, 1940 to December 31, 1940, County Agent, W. O. Davis, Weldon, N. C., Assistant County Agent, F. W. Reams, Scotland Neck, N. C., Negro Farm Agent, D. J. Knight, Enfield, N. C. All agents are employed on a full time basis. All offices are located in the Agricultural Building at Halifax, N. C. except the offices of the Assistant County Agent, and the Negro Farm Agent. The Assistant County Agent has a sub-office located in Scotland Neck, N. C. for the convenience of the farmers in that section of the county. D. J. Knight, Negro Farm

2

Agent has an office located in Enfield, N. C. Work in the county is divided as follows: The County Agent is in charge of the Agricultural Conservation Program, working with local and county committees, and the county office force. The County Agent also prepares the county plan of work with the assistance of the County Board of Agriculture, and the Assistant County Agent. The County Agent assists in carrying on the plan of work, and has general supervision of the work of the Assistant County Agent, and the Negro Farm Agent. The Assistant County Agent devotes about seventy-five per cent of his time to the county plan of work, and 4-H club work. The Assistant County Agent devotes about ten per cent of his time to the Agricultural Conservation Program. The Negro Farm Agent handles all negro extension field work with negro farmers, assisted by the County Agent, and the Assistant County Agent. He does not assist with any of the Agricultural Conservation Program.

B. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The Board of County Commissioners, which is the governing body of the local county government appropriates funds

3

annually for the salaries of all extension workers in the county. The County Commissioners furnish the County Agricultural Building, including janitor service, heat, lights and water. The Commissioners are much interested in the extension program, and keep in close touch with the County Agent at all times.

C. COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The County Board of Agriculture is composed of ten farmers from different sections of the county, who are recommended by the County Agent, and appointed by the County Committee to serve for one year. The purpose of this board is to assist the County Agent in preparing the county plan of work, and to serve in an advisory capacity with the County Agent on questions of county wide interest. One annual meeting for the adoption of the county plan of work is the only regular meeting. Other meetings are held at the call of any member, or at the call of the County Agent.

II. PLAN OF WORK FOR 1940.

The following is an outline of the plan of work for 1940, showing work started, and work completed;

4

1940 PLAN OF WORK.

| | | Days Plan- ned | Days Work- ed | Dem. Plan- ned | Dem. Start- ed | Dem. Com- ple- ted |
|----|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. | AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING | 65 | 71.8 | | | |
| | 1. Heavy Terracing | | | 60 | 27 | 27 |
| | 2. Light Terracing | | | 20 | 32 | 31 |
| | 3. Terrace Maintenance | | | 20 | 9 | 9 |
| | 4. Farm Machinery | | | 3 | 26 | 26 |
| | 5. Construction Demonstrations | | | 10 | 2 | 2 |
| | 6. Water Systems | | | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| B. | AGRONOMY | 62 | 92.5 | | | |
| | 1. Rotation | | | 10 | 7 | 6 |
| | 2. Winter Legumes | | | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| | 3. Lespedeza | | | 12 | 24 | 20 |
| | 4. Corn | | | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| | 5. Cotton | | | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| | 6. Red Clover | | | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | 7. Small Grain | | | 20 | 17 | 15 |
| | 8. Summer Legumes | | | 20 | 2 | 2 |
| | 9. Cotton One Variety | | | 2 | 12 | 12 |
| C. | BEEF CATTLE, SHEEP, WORK STOCK | 20 | 46.7 | | | |
| | 1. Beef Herd Management | | | 9 | 15 | 15 |
| | 2. Bull Placement | | | 5 | 10 | 10 |

1940 PLAN OF WORK CONTINUED.

| | Days Plan- ned | Days Work- ed | Dem. ned | Dem. ed | Dem. Start- Com- ple- ted |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3. Heifer Placement | | | 25 | 45 | 45 |
| 4. Sheep Flock Management | | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Ram Placement | | | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 6. Grading and Marketing Lambs | | | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| D. BEE KEEPING | 6 | 1.5 | | | |
| 1. Demonstration Apiary | | | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 2. Swarm Control | | | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Queen Introduction | | | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| E. DAIRYING | 12 | 14.4 | | | |
| 1. Permanent Pastures | | | 10 | 17 | 15 |
| 2. Temporary Pastures | | | 10 | 4 | 2 |
| 3. D. H. I. Test | | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| F. ENTOMOLOGY | | 59.3 | | | |
| 1. Boll Weevil Control | | | 10 | 4 | 0 |
| 2. Insect Tight Plant Bed | | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Peach Borer Control | | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. 4-H Entomology Projects | | | 2 | 0 | 0 |

1940 PLAN OF WORK CONTINUED

| | Days Plan- ned | Days Work- ed | Dem. Plan- ned | Dem. Start- ed | Dem. Com- ple- ted |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| G. FARM MANAGEMENT | 20 | 2.3 | | | |
| 1. Farm & Home Demon- strations | | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. Farm Tours | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Demonstration Tours | | | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| H. 4-H WORK | 81 | 57.0 | | | |
| 1. Organized Clubs | | | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 2. 4-H Council | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Camp | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4. Achievement Days | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 5. Leader Schools | | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 6. Judging Teams | | | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 7. Demonstration Teams | | | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. Com. Projects | | | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. Older Youth Organizations | | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 Exhibits | | | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| I. FORESTRY | 12 | 1.7 | | | |
| 1. Timber Thinning | | | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 2. Selective Cutting | | | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Planting Pines | | | 4 | 2 | 2 |

1940 PLAN OF WORK CONTINUED

| | Days Plan- ned | Days Work- ed | Dem. Plan- ned | Dem. Start- ed | Dem. Com- ple- ted |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| J. HORTICULTURE | 15 | 7.3 | | | |
| 1. Porto Rico Potatoes | | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. Potato Storage | | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Home Gardens | | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| K. PLANT PATHOLOGY | 10 | 7.1 | | | |
| 1. Cereal Seed Treatment | | | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 2. Peanut Dusting | | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| L. POULTRY | 25 | 11.8 | | | |
| 1. Broiler Production | | | 10 | 2 | 2 |
| 2. Dem. Flock Records | | | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Farm Flock Management | | | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| M. SWINE | 52 | 14.0 | | | |
| 1. Thrifty Pigs | | | 10 | 5 | 4 |
| 2. Feeding | | | 10 | 15 | 12 |
| 3. Butchering | | | 2 | 0 | 0 |

8

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS.

A. AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING.

1. Heavy Terracing.

Halifax County owns a caterpillar tractor, and terracing machine, which is operated by the County Agent's office, building terraces and other erosion control for the farmers. Terrace lines are run by the County Agent, the Assistant County Agent, or the United States Conservation Service. For the use of this machine farmers are charged \$3.00 per hour for the time the machine is actually building terraces. This charge covers labor, fuel and all other operating cost. The following is a statement of operations for the year December 1, 1939 to November 30, 1940. Due to extremely bad weather in the winter of 1939 and 1940, very little terracing work was done, and our income was correspondingly small. During this period we had a major repair bill on the tractor, which caused our operating expense to practically equal our income.

TRACTOR REPORT

December 1, 1939 to December 1, 1940

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Acres Terraced | 242 |
| Linear feet Terraced | 83900 |
| Hours of Terracing | 107:30 |
| Hours of Road Work | 18:45 |
| Hours of Other Work | 299:00 |
| Hours of Road Travel | 6:15 |
| Total Tractor Hours | 431:30 |
| Total Hours Paid Operators | 1096:00 |
| Total Amount Charged for Terracing | \$322.50 |
| Total Amount Charged for Work Done | \$1274.25 |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$1241.06 |
| Total Net Amount Cleared | \$33.19 |
| Amount of Uncollected Bills | \$210.80 |
| Amount of Cash on Hand | \$5.75 |
| Amount Actually Paid on Equipment | None |
| Total Debts of Association | \$295.35 |

(Balance on Equipment-
Not Included)

2. Light Terracing.

The majority of our terracing work was done by light terracing equipment with material and labor on the farm. Farmers are assisted in

10

this work by the County Agent and the Assistant County Agent. Seventy-five per cent of our light terracing is built with two horse plows, and a home made drag. Each year the County Agent and the Assistant Agent arrange from one to two terracing demonstrations in the county where a method demonstration is conducted in building home made drags, staking terrace lines and in building terraces. Some of the best terracing work in the county has been done by this method, and we expect to push this work more in the future. In 1940 we planned to assist twenty farmers in doing light terracing. Our records show that thirty-two farmers were assisted in this work, and that thirty-one farmers completed the work started. On these thirty-one farms approximately five hundred twenty-eight acres of land were protected from erosion by home made terraces.

3. TERRACE MAINTENANCE.

We have found it much easier to get farmers to build terraces than it is to get them to properly maintain the terraces after they were built. We find so many farmers who will put up good terraces, and then

11

plant row crops, with rows running across the terraces instead of practicing contour tillage. Our work in terrace maintenance is done in trying to get farmers to use contour tillage and properly plowing fields in the spring so as to keep the terraces built up, and at the same time to keep the water furrow open. Our plan of work for 1940 called for twenty demonstrations. Only nine were started and nine were completed. We expect to put more emphasis on terrace maintenance in 1941.

4. FARM MACHINERY.

Our work with farm machinery consists mostly in purchasing and operation of combines. With the change in farm markets, and the reduced acreage of regular money crops brought about by the AAA Farm Program, more farmers are interested in small grains, legumes and grass seed, as additional money crops on the farm. Three groups of farmers were assisted this year in purchasing a combine with funds borrowed from the Farm Security Administration as the Community Service Loans. We have had two of these loans for two years, and three new ones started this year, making a total of five combines being op-

12

erated under this plan this year. We are told by the Farm Security Administration that these farmers are meeting their payments on schedule. Other farmers in the county purchased twenty-three combines during the past year, which makes a total of twenty-six brought into the county in 1940. At the beginning of 1940 there were twenty-seven machines in the county, which now makes a total of fifty-three combines in use. These machines are used principally on small grains, crimson clover, lespedeza, soy beans and grass seed. The majority of small grain is fed to livestock on the farms. Clover seed, lespedeza and grass seed are usually sold as an additional money crop on the farm. Soy beans are all sold as a money crop. Due to the use of these machines, there has been a tremendous increase in the acreage planted in the above crops.

5. CONSTRUCTION DEMONSTRATIONS.

Due to the short crop and low income in 1938 and 1939, the farmers have not done much construction work this year. Farmers were furnished blue prints and assisted in the construction of one modern milking barn, one cow barn with feed storage space, one safety bull pen, eight laying houses, one hatchery and three brooder

13

houses. One farmer was furnished plans for the construction of a farm dwelling house.

6. WATER SYSTEMS.

Five demonstrations were planned but no work was done on this project this year. We did not find any farmers financially able to install water systems.

B. AGRONOMY.

1. ROTATIONS.

Our plan of work calls for ten crop rotation demonstrations. Seven were brought forward from 1939 and six of these completed their work in 1940. This does not include farms that have adopted crop rotation work as a part of their farm program with the Soil Conservation Service. The rotations with the six farms, mentioned above, have been running from three to five years, and are now beginning to show an increase in production over other farms in the county. These farms are also planting a greater variety of crops, including small grains, lespedeza, and legume winter cover crops. We are noticing a spreading influence in the communities adjoining these farms, as other farms are adopting practices as a result of watching these crop rotations.

14

2. WINTER LEGUMES.

Our plan of work calls for four winter legume demonstrations. Our records show that fourteen demonstrations were started and fourteen completed. These winter legumes are being used as winter cover crops, winter grazing for cattle, and in some cases allowed to produce seed, and the seed sold as an additional money crop. This is particularly true with crimson clover. Thirty-three farmers were assisted in harvesting crimson clover seed for sale. Two farmers were assisted in harvesting hairy vetch seed for sale. The AAA Farm Program, through the use of legume seed furnished as a grant of aid, has greatly increased the acreage of winter cover crops in the county. During the fall of 1940 forty thousand pounds of Austrian Winter Pea seed, and twenty thousand pounds of hairy vetch seed were distributed as a grant of aid. While there has been a tremendous increase in the planting of winter legume cover crops, there is still much room for an increase in acreage.

3. LESPEDEZA.

Our plan of work calls for twelve lespedeza demonstrations. We have records on twenty-four demonstrations started and completed. Lespedeza is being used as a soil improving crop following small grain, a hay crop, and for seed harvested as an

15

additional money crop. Eighteen farmers were assisted in harvesting approximately twenty-four thousand pounds of lespedeza seed for sale. Lespedeza is also being used as a pasture crop on many farms. The planting of lespedeza is increasing rapidly in the county due to the use of combines to save seed which are sold to neighboring farms.

4. CORN.

Our plan of work calls for two corn demonstrations. We have records on four farms starting corn demonstrations, and four farms completed. Two of these farms grew seed which were certified by the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association, and certified seed selected for sale. One farmer grew thirty acres of Latham's Double, which produced approximately forty bushels per acre. This farmer will have approximately forty bushels per acre. This farmer will have approximately two hundred bushels of certified seed corn for sale this year. Another farmer had ten acres of Jarvis, which was certified. This farm will have approximately fifty bushels of seed for sale. We hope to use a great part of this seed corn in the county as there is a tremendous need for better seed corn. Farm census records show an average yield per acre of corn in Halifax County to be eighteen bushels. This yield is

16

entirely too low and should be doubled. We expect to make corn production one of our major productions in the near future.

5. COTTON.

In 1940 we started a five year program known as the Halifax County Cotton Improvement Campaign. This campaign grew out of the short cotton crop produced in Halifax County in 1938 and 1939. During these years the county produced the smallest cotton crop ever produced in the history of cotton records. Not only the smallest crop in number of bales, but also the smallest in cash income. A study of census records revealed that in the past fifteen years our cotton crop had declined from fifty-eight thousand bales in 1925 to ninety-six hundred fifty bales in 1939. There was a decline in cash income from \$5,695,000.00 in 1925 to \$482,000.00 in 1939. Further study shows that this decline was due to low prices, less acreage planted, and low yields per acre being the most important fact. A committee of farmers was called in to study the cotton situation. As a result of this meeting fifteen farmers agreed to serve as a cotton committee to draw up plans for county wide cotton improvement, and a boll weevil control campaign. This committee visited Coker's pedigreed seed farms at Hartsville, South Carolina to study their methods of cotton production and boll weevil

17

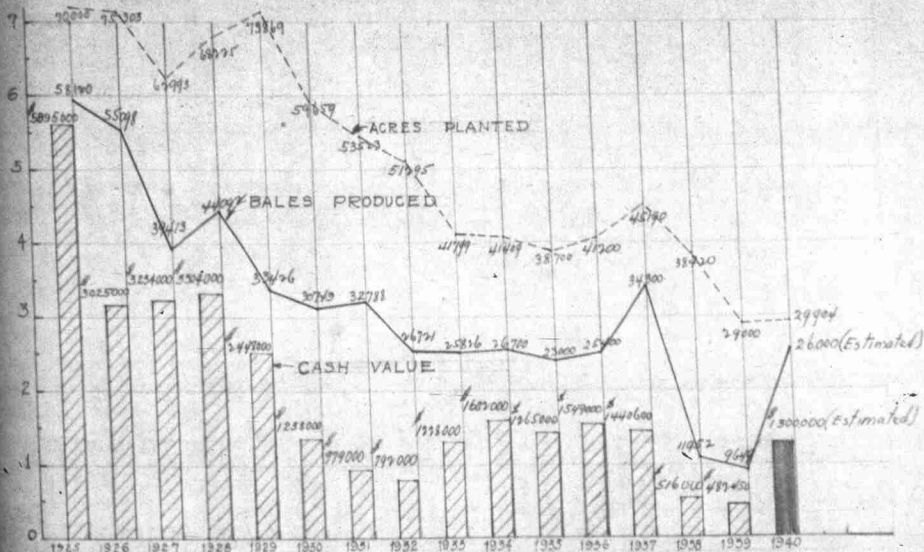
control. They consulted with cotton specialist from the North Carolina State College Extension Service, and members of a North Carolina Experiment Station staff. This committee met at the County Agent's office and spent one day in drawing up a detailed plan for a county wide cotton improvement campaign. This campaign called for a series of educational meetings first with the business men, merchants and bankers in each community in the county to explain our program to them, and to request their help in putting on the program. This was followed by a series of ten rural meetings. These meetings were held between February 12th and 16th. These meetings were attended by seven hundred sixty-three farmers. The County Agent was assisted in holding these meetings by J. O. Rowell, Extension Entomologist and J. A. Shanklin, Extension Cotton Specialist. Local merchants and bankers attended each of these meetings to help us get the cooperation of the farmers. In these meetings a three-point program was carried to the farmers, asking them to plant their full 1940 cotton allotment, to adopt Coker's One Hundred as one variety for the county, and to control boll weevil by mopping, picking up squares and dusting if necessary. Following these meetings arrangements were made with local merchants to furnish improved seed of Coker's One Hundred variety at cost to farmers

18

wishing to buy them. At the same time arrangements were also made for merchants to sell molasses and calcium arsenate to farmers at cost to be used in weevil control. Time merchants, bankers, Production Credit Associations, the Seed Loan Office and landlords, furnishing the money with which to produce a cotton crop in 1941, were requested to insist that any farmer securing advances from them be required to mop their cotton for weevil control at least three times according to instructions prepared by the County Agent's office. In many cases credit was extended only to farmers who would agree to follow this method. The cotton committee prepared and printed five thousand copies of a four page bulletin on cotton growing, and a copy mailed to each cotton grower in the county. An agreement was made with merchants of the county that the County Agent would not handle any cotton seed, calcium or molasses, and that these supplies would go through the merchants as a part of their regular business, and the merchants in return would sell these at cost for the good of the farmers, and expect to get their profit from the increased cotton crop made as a result of this campaign. Records show that merchants of the county sold eighteen thousand bushels of Coker's One Hundred cotton seed in this county alone. This does not include seed sold and swapped between farmers in the county.

19

Beginning June 10th, the County Agent and Assistant County Agent held ten field demonstrations to show how cotton should be mopped, and how mopping mixture should be prepared. These demonstrations were attended by two hundred twenty-five farmers. Mopping, as a field practice, was started about June 15th, and it appeared that at least ninety per cent of the cotton in the county was being mopped. Cotton came up to a good stand, and, with favorable weather conditions, grew nicely. During the planting season, merchants, bankers and newspapers gave a great deal of publicity to the cotton improvement campaign, including several full paid page advertisements in county newspapers. Calcium and molasses were available in every town in the county at cost to farmers, and it was difficult to find a cotton field in the county that was not mopped. Arrangements were made with state AAA office to allow compliance supervisors to record on compliance papers the variety of cotton planted on the farm, and, whether or not, this cotton had been mopped. From these records we found that a total of twenty-nine thousand nine hundred four acres of cotton were planted in 1940. Of this acreage twenty-six thousand three hundred sixty-nine, or eighty-eight per cent, was planted in Coker's One Hundred cotton. We also found that twenty-four thousand one hun-



COTTON PRODUCTION HALIFAX COUNTY N.C. 1925 To 1940

Showing Progress Of Cotton Improvement Campaign, Started in 1940.

21

dred sixty-five acres, or eighty-one per cent, of the cotton crop had been mopped for weevil control. The cotton gin report of December 1, 1940 shows that twenty-four thousand seven hundred bales of cotton had been ginned in Halifax County up to December 1st. All information seems to indicate that the 1940 crop would be approximately twenty-six thousand bales. This cotton crop will be harvested from twenty-seven thousand eight hundred four acres as the flood of August 20th destroyed completely twenty-one hundred acres of cotton planted along the Roanoke River. This shows an increase in production on the same acreage from nine thousand six hundred fifty bales in 1939 to twenty-six thousand bales in 1940, and a money value increase from four hundred eighty-two thousand dollars in 1939 to one million three hundred thousand dollars in 1940. On account of ideal growing conditions in 1940 it is impossible to determine the value of our cotton campaign, but public opinion seems to indicate that it was worth more than it cost.

6. RED CLOVER.

Two farmers were assisted in growing red clover this year in an effort to find another money crop in the form of red clover seed. One demonstration was two years old, and showed

72

excellent results, but for some reason did not produce a satisfactory crop of seed. On the second farm the clover made a fair growth, but was cut for hay. Our farmers do not seem to have much interest in red clover. They prefer lespedeza, or crimson clover.

7. SMALL GRAIN.

Our plan of work calls for twenty demonstrations in production of small grain. Our records show that seventeen were started and fifteen completed. All of these demonstrations were extremely satisfactory, due to an excellent spring and plenty of rain to mature the crop. One farmer, on fifty acres of wheat, produced an average of forty bushels per acre. There was a tremendous increase in all small grain in the county with the exception of rye, with wheat and barley showing the greatest increase. We believe that combines have had more to do with the increase of small grain than any other factor. The majority of our small grain is followed by lespedeza, or soy beans. Our farmers are beginning to find that small grain fed to livestock and poultry followed by lespedeza and soy beans is a much better farming practice than cotton, peanuts or tobacco.

73

8. SUMMER LEGUMES.

Our plan of work calls for twenty summer legume demonstrations. Only two of these were started and two completed. Soy beans is the principal summer legume in the county. These are grown in connection with corn for soil building practices, and for hog feed. There has been a tremendous increase in the acreage of soy beans planted alone, and harvested with combines. These beans will be sold to the oil mills principally. There is very little interest in field peas, or velvet beans.

9. COTTON ONE VARIETY.

See paragraph 5 above, as our one variety cotton work is covered in the county wide cotton improvement campaign.

C. BEEF CATTLE, SHEEP, WORK STOCK.

1. BEEF HERD MANAGEMENT.

The county plan of work calls for nine beef herd management demonstrations. Our records show that fifteen demonstrations were conducted and completed. Beef cattle production in the

24

county has increased one hundred per cent in the last two years with the greater part of the increase coming in 1940. Our records show that seventy-five farmers in the county are keeping beef cattle. The County Agents are assisting these farmers principally in feed production, pasture improvement, and the use of pure bred sires. During 1940 farmers were assisted in purchasing ten registered Hereford bulls. Two of our old breeders were assisted in selling three registered bulls. It appears that high price of beef is causing some farmers to start beef cattle work, who should not attempt it. We are advising our farmers not to start on beef cattle until they have sufficient pasture, and are producing sufficient home grown feed to properly winter their cattle. There are ten upright silos and ten trench silos in the county being used for feeding beef cattle.

2. BULL PLACEMENT.

Our plan of work calls for placing five bulls in 1940. Ten bulls were placed, all of which were registered Herefords. All of these bulls were purchased from sales promoted by the

25

extension service, livestock agents for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, and the banks of eastern North Carolina.

3. HEIFER PLACEMENT.

Our plan of work calls for twenty-five heifers to be placed. Forty-five heifers were placed in the county in 1940. Eleven of these were registered heifers that will be used for foundation stock. Thirty-four were high grade, but will also be used for foundation stock.

4. SHEEP FLOCK MANAGEMENT.

Our plan of work calls for two demonstrations. Nothing was done on this project.

5. RAM PLACEMENT.

Our plan of work calls for five rams to be placed. Nothing was done on this project.

6. GRADING AND MARKETING LAMBS.

Our plan of work calls for five demonstrations. Nothing was done on this project.

26

D. BEE KEEPING.

1. DEMONSTRATION APIARY.

Our plan of work calls for three demonstrations. Two demonstrations were started and completed. Five farmers are being assisted in handling their bees. This work is handled entirely with the assistance of the extension bee specialist, who makes two visits to this county each year to assist the farmers with their bee problems. We have one farmer near Spring Hill, who has a modern apiary with all of the latest equipment and is really doing good work. Bee keepers report a very unprofitable year in 1940. There does not seem to be very much interest in bee keeping in the county.

2. SWARM CONTROL.

Our plan of work calls for two demonstrations, which were conducted and completed. This work was done on the farm of R. W. Etheridge at Spring Hill by the Assistant County Agent, with the assistance of the extension bee specialist.

27

3. QUEEN INTRODUCTION.

Our plan of work calls for three demonstrations.
Nothing was done on this project this year.

E. DAIRYING.

1. PERMANENT PASTURES.

Our plan of work calls for ten pasture demonstrations. Seventeen were started and fifteen completed. With the increased interest in livestock in the county there has been a corresponding increase in permanent pastures. We have several pastures in the county that are excellent and have been used more than any other demonstrations in the county. Our farmers are finding that good land properly fertilized and seeded is giving them excellent returns in pastures. We are having more calls each year for help in establishing better pastures. We are placing more emphasis on small acreage of good land properly prepared and managed, rather than on larger acreage of pasture.

In cooperation with the Planters Food Institute, the County Agents conducted three pasture fertilizer demonstrations in 1940. The results of these demonstrations are as follows:

28

DRY MATTER ON ACRE BASIS

| Name | Treatment | Yields | Yields | Total |
|-----------------|---------------|---------|--------|--------|
| | | 1st | 2nd | pounds |
| | | Cutting | | |
| Phillips, W. L. | 1-lime & phos | 499 | 945 | 1444 |
| | 2-lime only | 300 | 755 | 1055 |
| Pope, H. B. | 1-lime & phos | 1875 | 693 | 2569 |
| | 2-lime only | 1709 | 481 | 2190 |
| Whitehead, J.O. | 1-lime & phos | 2693 | 1479 | 4172 |
| | 2-lime only | 2358 | 534 | 2892 |

2. TEMPORARY PASTURES.

Our plan of work calls for ten demonstrations. Four were started and two were completed. Two farmers used soy beans as temporary pasture this year for dairy cattle that gave excellent results. During the dry weather of July the milk production on these farms held up, due to the fact that the farmers had these temporary pastures in soy beans for their cows. We expect to push these pastures in connection with dairy cattle and hogs more in the coming year.

3. D. H. I. TEST.

Two farmers in the county are having assistance in doing D.H.I. Test work. The information given from this test work

29

has enabled these farmers to eliminate five culls from their milking herd.

4. OTHER DAIRY WORK.

One farmer was assisted this year in starting dairy work producing whole milk, which is sold to the Southern Dairies in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. This producer was assisted in building a modern milking barn, a cow barn with feed storage space above, and one upright metal silo. He was assisted in purchasing a herd of twenty-four Guernsey cows, eleven of which were registered, also two registered Guernsey bulls. With the assistance of the dairy specialist, and the agronomy specialist from State College, this farmer was assisted in rearranging his farm program so as to produce as much seed as possible for his cows. This should be an excellent dairy demonstration for farmers in the county. The producer is attempting to grow all food and feed on the farm and turn this into a cash crop through his dairy cows. This project is about eight months old, and is going fairly well.

F. ENTOMOLOGY.

1. BOLL WEEVIL CONTROL.

30

Our plan of work calls for ten boll weevil control demonstrations. Four of these were started, but none were completed due to no boll weevil damage in 1940. In connection with our cotton improvement campaign a county wide boll weevil control campaign was conducted in the county in 1940. During February ten educational meetings were held by the County Agent, and the Extension Entomologist. These meetings were attended by seven hundred sixty-three farmers. At these meetings boll weevil control was discussed and mopping and dusting was recommended. Construction of home made mops and mixing of the 1-1-1 molasses mixture was explained. During June ten method demonstrations were conducted by the County Agent, and the Assistant County Agent. These demonstrations were attended by two hundred twenty-five farmers. Arrangements were made with local merchants to supply calcium arsenate and molasses at cost. The County Agent's office did not handle the sale of any calcium or molasses. The merchants agreed to do this at cost expecting to get their profit out of the cotton crop we hope to make as a result of the county wide weevil control campaign. The farmers were very much interested in this campaign, and in June it was hard to find a cotton field in the county that was not being mopped. The majority of the mopping was done by hand. Approximately

31

ten per cent of the acreage was mopped by various types of mopping machines. Check on mopping was secured from AAA compliance supervisors when farms were measured by AAA supervisors. These records show that out of twenty-nine thousand nine hundred four acres of cotton planted in 1940 twenty-four thousand one hundred sixty-five acres were mopped, which is eighty-one per cent of the entire cotton crop. Cotton gin reports of December 1st showed twenty-four thousand seven hundred bales of cotton ginned to December 1st. This report indicates a final production of approximately twenty-six thousand bales as a 1940 crop. Due to ideal weather conditions and lack of weevil damage, it is impossible to estimate the value of this mopping. Four boll weevil control demonstrations were started with check plots, but due to lack of weevil damage we secured no information from them.

2. INSECT TIGHT PLANT BED.

Our plan of work calls for two demonstrations. No work was done on this project.

3. PEACH BORER CONTROL.

32

Our plan of work calls for two demonstrations. No work was done on this project.

4. 4-H ENTOMOLOGY PROJECTS.

Our plan of work calls for two demonstrations. No work was done on this project.

0. FARM MANAGEMENT.

1. FARM AND HOME DEMONSTRATIONS.

Our plan of work calls for one demonstration. No work was done on this project as we did not find anyone interested in doing this work that the Farm and Home Agent thought would be suitable.

2. FARM TOURS.

Our plan of work calls for one annual farm tour. This tour was conducted on Friday, August 9th. The tour was attended by twenty-five farmers of this and adjoining counties. Six farms were visited on this tour. The first stop visited a pasture demonstration showing the value of lime and phosphate with a check plot receiving no treatment. The second stop was

33

to show construction and use of trench silos used for beef cattle purposes. On the third stop the farmers visited an upright silo which is used in connection with beef cattle feeding and saw a stave silo in process of construction. At the fourth stop the farmers saw a trench silo that had been in use for several years with the barns and equipment used for feeding beef cattle. While no cattle were on feed at the time of the tour the farmers saw practical equipment needed for feeding beef cattle. The fifth stop showed a beef cattle farm where a herd of one hundred five Hereford cows were kept. On this farm the farmers saw one of the best demonstrations available for keeping beef cattle on a practical basis. They saw the foundation herd, plenty of good pasture cut in several sections so as to rotate the grazing. Feed being grown in the fields, silos for storing feed, both trench and upright, feed storage barns and cattle feeding barns. On this farm calves are grown out to steers and then fattened for market. The sixth stop showed a registered herd of some of the finest Herefords in the county. This farm had only been in beef cattle production three years, and the visitors saw a practical equipment of a breeding herd.

On Friday, August 30th, the County Agent assisted the

34

Soil Conservation Service in conducting a tour in Little Fishing Creek Soil Conservation District. Forty-five farmers attended this tour observing meadow strips, strip cropping, crop rotation, forestry management and erosion control by terraces, also gully control by the use of Kudzu. Four farms were visited on this tour. The tour finished up at the CCC camp in Littleton where a dutch lunch was served, and the purpose of the Soil Conservation district was explained. As a result of this tour the Soil Conservation district received twenty-five applications from farmers requesting help.

H. 4-H CLUB WORK.

1. ORGANIZED 4-H CLUBS.

Our plan of work calls for eight organized joint clubs. Eight clubs were organized and completed their years work. Our records show that seventy-eight boys were enrolled and sixty-six turned in complete records. These boys carried the following projects:

35

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| CORN GROWING | 16 |
| SWINE FATTENING | 16 |
| HANDICRAFT | 14 |
| PEANUT GROWING | 10 |
| BABY BEEF FATTENING | 8 |
| POULTRY | 1 |
| WILD LIFE | 1 |

Of the sixty-six boys forty-four were in the work for the first year; nineteen the second year, and fifteen the third year. Seven boys attended the 4-H short course at State College in July. A judging team of three boys competed at the Fat Stock Show in Rocky Mount, North Carolina in March. One judging team of three boys competed in the Livestock judging contest at the State Fair in October; one judging team of three boys competed in the seed judging contest at the State Fair in October; fifteen boys attended the 4-H group camp at Indian Springs during August.

2. 4-H COUNCIL.

A county 4-H group council was organized. This council consisted of four members from each of the groups in the county: two boys and two girls from each group. This council met four

36

times during the year to assist in planning the years work of the various group activities.

3. 4-H CAMP.

The Assistant Home Agent, and Assistant County Agent conducted a 4-H club camp at Indian Springs at Hoffman, North Carolina during August. This camp was attended by thirty-one members, fifteen of which were boys. In addition to regular group activities the group visited the North Carolina Fish Hatchery and game reservation at Hoffman.

4. 4-H ACHIEVEMENT DAY.

The county 4-H achievement day was held on Saturday, November 16th at Ringwood School. Presentation of county awards was made by Miss Mattie Anderson, county 4-H adult leader. Each club member receiving an award was asked to give a brief description of his project for the year. After lunch a meeting of the county council was held and officers were elected for the following year.

I. FORESTRY.

1. TIMBER THINNING.

Our plan of work calls for five timber thinning demonstrations. Two old demonstrations were conducted through the year, but no new ones were started. Results were not secured from the two that were running.

2. SELECTIVE CUTTING.

Our plan of work calls for four demonstrations. No work was done on this project.

3. PLANTING PINES.

Our plan of work calls for four demonstrations. Two demonstrations were started and two completed. These farmers were assisted in ordering twelve thousand trees. Due to extremely dry weather during June and July several trees died, and that project will to be replanted this winter. Fire burned over a part of one demonstration which was completely destroyed, and that portion will have to be reset. Our farmers have not been as interested in forestry work as they should.

J. HORTICULTURE.

1. PORTO RICO POTATOES.

Our plan of work calls for two demonstrations. No work was done on this project.

2. POTATO STORAGE.

Our plan of work calls for two demonstrations. No work was done on this project.

3. HOME GARDENS.

Our plan of work calls for two demonstrations. No work was done on this project directly, but as the AAA farm program included a family garden as a soil building practice considerable publicity was given to home gardens and there was a noticable increase in the number of home gardens in 1940.

K. PLANT PATHOLOGY.

1. CEREAL SEED TREATMENT.

Our plan of work calls for five demonstrations. Four were started and three were completed. Two of these demonstrations were for treatment of seed with Ceresan for control of smut, one with oats and one with barley. No

39

check plots were kept, but the farmers report excellent crops with no smut damage.

2. PEANUT DUSTING.

Our plan of work calls for two demonstrations. Two were started and two were completed with the exception that no records were secured for one project. On one project two acres of peanuts were dusted with sulphur dust, with four applications at the rate of twenty-five pounds per acre. Before harvest a leaf count was made, which showed that sixty-three per cent of the leaves had shedded off the plants on the check plot, and only 33 per cent were shedded on the dusted plot. Results of the peanuts harvested from each plot have not been secured as the peanuts have not been thrashed to date. One other farmer dusted his entire crop of eight acres with three applications at the rate of twenty-five pounds per application. No check plot was left, but the farmer reported that his peanuts were much above the average for the neighboring farms, and that he expected to dust his crop again next year, as he considered the increased quality of hay sufficient to justify dusting. Peanut dusting is not done generally in the county

40

due to the lack of dusting machinery.

L. POULTRY.

1. BROILER PRODUCTION.

Our plan of work calls for ten broiler demonstrations. Two were started and two completed, but no records were secured on these projects. These farmers were assisted in purchasing good quality chicks, and assisted in sanitation and feeding. The chicks were sold locally and consumed at home.

2. DEMONSTRATION FLOCK RECORDS.

Our plan of work calls for three demonstrations. No work was done on this project.

3. FARM FLOCK MANAGEMENT.

Our plan of work calls for ten demonstrations. One demonstration was started and completed without records. In this demonstration the County Agent assisted the farmer in purchasing his foundation stock, composed of six hundred

41

Rhode Island Reds, and six hundred Barred Rocks. The farmer was assisted in feeding, brooding, culling and in general management of the flock. All pullets were kept and put into laying houses. The farmer was assisted in building four laying houses, which served as brooder houses, and were later converted into laying houses. This flock was culled and tested for pollorum, and the eggs contracted to a hatchery. This farm started selling eggs to a hatchery in December, and is well pleased with the results so far.

There is a great need for more poultry work in the county, and we hope to get more of this work done in 1941.

M. SWINE.

1. THRIFTY PIGS.

Our plan of work calls for ten demonstrations. Five were started and four completed. This is one of the hardest projects to get our farmers to work with, although it is one of the most badly needed. Two demonstrations were conducted complete in every detail, and both farmers report excellent results. Pork production is one of the major money

42

crops in the county, and there is a tremendous need for swine sanitation work. We are hoping, from results secured this year which have been observed by adjoining farmers, to expand this work. As soon as our farmers see the ease with which sanitation can be practiced, the work will increase greatly. We hope to get records on next years work that will give us facts and figures to carry to other farmers.

2. FEEDING.

Our plan of work calls for ten demonstrations. Fifteen were started and twelve were completed without records. Our farmers have fed hogs for so many years that it is almost impossible to get them to keep records of starting weights, feed consumed and finishing weights. It is a general practice in the county to use self-feeders with fish meal and cotton seed meal supplement along with minerals. Our hogs are marketed with trucks direct to Richmond, Virginia and Rocky Mount, North Carolina. The low price of hogs this year has discouraged our farmers in pork production for market. We have urged more brood sows for this year so our farmers will be ready to take advantage of the increase in hog prices expected shortly. Our

43

farmers have taken our advice in this matter, and there is a good supply of brood sows in the county this fall.

3. BUTCHERING.

Our plan of work calls for two demonstrations. No work was done on this project.

N. FISHING CREEK SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

In 1938 the County Agent with the assistance of the United States Soil Conservation Service organized the Little Fishing Creek Soil Conservation District with headquarters in Littleton. This district was organized to serve a part of Halifax County, and a part of Warren County. In 1939 it was enlarged to serve all of both counties. An organization of five workers, and a CCC camp is located in Littleton to serve this district. The County Agent and the Assistant County Agent serve in an advisory capacity, and also assist in preparing farm plans for farmers cooperating with the district. On December 1st, the Soil Conservation District reports that they are assisting one hundred ninety-six farmers in Halifax County. These farmers are being assisted primarily in erosion control, land utilization, and better farm management.

99

This project is doing excellent work, and is proving of great value to the entire county. We hope to help them more in 1941.

IV. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS.

Our extension program for 1940 did not receive as much time as we would like to have given it, due to the necessity of working AAA Farm Program. We feel that we really accomplished more than in any year during the past five years. The county wide cotton improvement and boll weevil control campaign, which was conducted this year, brought out some of the best cooperation we have ever received in the county. Bankers, Merchants, newspapers, civic clubs and farmers all cooperated with the County Agents in putting on this program. The results of this campaign were far greater than we have ever hoped to get. The cooperation was worth as much as the actual results from the campaign.

The increase in small grain, legume crops, and livestock was very noticeable in 1940. This shows a change in our farming system brought about by the AAA program and extension work, which makes our farmers more independent of cotton, peanuts and tobacco production. While larger farmers began this shift

45

several years ago, there is a definite increase in the number of small farmers that are shifting more to small grain, legumes and livestock in 1940, and at the same time are growing all the acreage of cotton, peanuts and tobacco permitted under the conservation program.

7