

NORTH CAROLINA

GAMDEN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT ANNUAL REPORT 1942

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REPORT FILES
EXTENSION WORK

1942 NARRATIVE REPORT

Camden county lies in the extreme northeastern part of the State between Pasquotank and Currituck Counties, extending from the Albemarle Sound to the Virginia State line. The county averages about seven miles in width and about thirty-seven miles in length. The county containing only 220 square miles is strictly rural, there being no towns or industry except agriculture and some logging. The county seat is at Camden, which is only a small village. The people of the county have to go to Elizabeth City or Norfolk, Virginia to purchase their supplies and equipment.

The population of the county as given by the 1940 census is 5440, consisting of 3195 white and 2245 negroes.

The people depend intirely on agriculture for a livelihood in normal times, however, at the present there are about 50% of the men working in the defense areas at Elizabeth City and Norfolk, Virginia.

The crops grown in the county are, cotton, Irish potatoes, commercial vegetables, corn, soybeans, and small grains. The livestock consist of hogs, beef cattle, sheep and poultry.

This report covers twelve months beginning December 1, 1941, through November 30, 1942. I worked 289½ days. 232½ in the field and 57 in the office. 40 days were devoted to AAA activities, 83 days to War activities, and 166½ days to extension and other activities.

I traveled during the year by automobile 11,032 miles carrying out these activities. I had 5726 calls; 1248 telephone calls; wrote 1429 letters; and received 2337 letters; 64 circular letters, mailing 23,360 copies; prepared 30 news articles; and distributed 2,710 bulletins; prepared 6 radio programs; made 769 farm visits, visiting 492 different farms; and held and attended 97 meetings with an attendance of 2,037.

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We immediately began a series of meetings to explain the needs and what our government was asking to do. We followed up these meetings by having the AAA Committeemen to contact each farmer and get their intention to plant. The results of this campaign was the farmers increased their soybeans acreage from 13,000 to 16,500 acres, and peanuts from 18 acres to 298 acres. This was an increase of 27% in soybean acreage and 35% increase in peanuts acreage.

2. The scrap iron and Farm Machinery Repair

We held 18 meetings in the county explaining the need for this scrap iron and the importance to the farmers to take stock and make their repairs early. The results of this campaign netted 75,000 lbs. of scrap iron turned in to the junk dealers and 200 farmers making repairs and placing orders for parts early. The scrap drive is still going on and from best available records there has been about 150,000 lbs. of scrap iron collected this year and probably 10,000 lbs. of scrap rubber.

3. Victory Gardens.

We conducted the Victory garden program by holding 18 neighbors meeting with the leaders and ask each of them to contact their neighbors. The results were that 95% of the farm families had the victory garden program explained to them. From riding through the county there are more gardens in the county than any year in the past nine years since I have been in the county. There were also an increase of commercial vegetables grown for market this year.

4. Control cost of living.

This program was put on by holding 18 neighborhood meetings with the leaders and asking that they contact their neighbors.

5. The U. S. D. A. War Board

The war board work covers all Farm activities especially dealing with construction and purchase of building materials. The board is made up of a representative from each of the Agricultural agencies in the county.

6. Rationing of Farm Machinery

The Farm Machinery Rationing Committee was appointed by the County U. S. D. A. War Board.

The Committee issued certificates of the following equipment during the month of October.

Issued		Delivered to Farmers
Tractors	15	10
Combines	11	11
Corn Pickers	4	4
Eractor Equipment	8	2
Corn Sheller	1	1
Mowing Machines	1	8
Disc Harrow	1	0
Hammer Mill	1	0
Drill	1	0

7. County Farm Transportation Program.

This committee was also appointed by the County USDA War Board. The purpose of this committee is to work out plans to keep the necessary farm truck in operation and to see they get the necessary gas and repair parts. Their first job was to see that each owner get a certificate of War Necessity in order to operate. It looks as though they have quite a job to get the certificates straightened out from the way they have been coming into the office.

2. Extension Progress

1. We all realize that food is one of the most needed tools of war. If our armed forces are to fight they must be fed. Therefore, our aims were to produce more with less on the same acres.

The beginning of the year emphasis were put on better seed, proper fertilization, and cultivations.

I assisted 321 farmers obtain through a cooperative order of improved certified, treated cotton seed and as a result of these improved seed the cotton yield is near 500 lbs. per acre.

More food and feed crops have been saved despite the labor shortage.

For the first time through the cooperation of the experiment station the Extension service and Mr. T. C. Sawyer, research work was started on control of diseases of Irish Potatoes. Mr. E. W. Neilson being in charge of the work. We also continued the fertilizer experiment which was started in 1941. The results of these have not been released from the department in Raleigh. The variety demonstration with Irish potatoes which was started in 1940 was continued, with the cooperation of Mr. H. C. Ferebee producer and Mr. M. E. Gardner head of the Horticultural department. The results have not been released by Mr. Gardner.

Several precooling tests on shipping Irish Potatoes were conducted this year for the first time in the county. Cooperating in these tests were the Extension service, U. S. D. A. Bureau of plant industry, fruit, growers express, and several farmers in the county, and F. C. X.

The following tests were conducted from Camden station with H. C. Ferbee, C. T. Moore, producers cooperating and the F. C. X. handling the potatoes.

Bunker Fan Precooling

1. Lower stage icing with center aisle cooling.
2. Lower stage icing with pyramid loading.
3. Lower stage icing with pyramid loading and 100 lbs. of cream salt per bunker.
4. Precooling with a mobile mechanized refrigeration unit.

The following tests were conducted at Scott Siding with Mr. T. C. Sawyer producer cooperating.

Bunker Fan Precooling

1. Upper stage icing with pyramid loading central fan cooling.
2. Lower stage icing 100 lbs. cream salt per bunker.
3. Load 5,000 lbs. ice in front bunker vents open to destination.
4. Standard Ventilation.

These cars were followed through to market, but due to the low night temperature all cars arrived in good condition except the car with no ice and standard ventilation was in a slight less desirable condition.

The test cars from Camden were not followed through to market, however, most all potatoes carried ^{well} good this year due to low temperatures at night during shipping season.

A shipping test on different types of containers was made from Camden consisting of the following types of containers.

L.S.V. Mark	---	Cloth mesh bags
General Wayne	---	cloth mesh bags
Duke	---	white cloth bags
Fort Raleigh	---	burlap bags
		paper bags

The reports of condition on arrival were the cloth bags were not as good as burlap. Paper bags were alright ^{all night} except ^{in the fact that} several bursted in the shipment.

Even though there is a shortage of fertilizer especially nitrogen, the farmers are making plans to keep their production up by growing both summer and winter legumes. In addition to the 16,500 acres of soybeans growers alone 4,500 acres of soybeans were interplanted with corn to improve their soil. We placed 50,000 lbs. of Austrian Winter Peas and 25,000 lbs. of Crimson Clover with farmers for fall seeding. In addition there was 25,000 lbs. of vetch seed sowed in the county and distributed to farmers. There is 8,000 acres of small grain seed t is fall for grain and to be turned under greed next spring.

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2. Increase Production of Livestock and Poultry

In establishing the production goals last spring, we were ask to increase our livestock by 10 - 12% and poultry and eggs production by 10%.

Special emphasis have been placed on better breeding, feeding, and management of livestock and poultry flocks.

In the early spring farmers were advised to care and breed their best gilts and heifers and to increase their poultry flocks by buying chicks from U. S. approved hatchery.

The percent of increase in swine production is shown by the increased marketing of swine through the Camden-Currituck livestock association. We held 24 sales and 100 farmers sold 2555 head of hogs weighing 544,045 lbs. Netting the farmers \$78,402.39 or compared with 625 head of swine sold during 1941, which indicates about 400% increase production of swine in the county. This only represents about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the production in the county.

There has been 8 pure bred bulls and 75 improved beef heifers placed in the county during the year. In addition most farmers are keeping their best heifers for breeding purposes instead of selling them for veal and feeders.

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I assisted 10 farmers in establishing a small egg route to Norfolk which has paid them on an average of 5 to 6¢ per dozen for their eggs. This route is growing and I expect before next year is over there will be a need for a large trunk to take care of the eggs.

Four poultry flocks reported completed the years records with 1725 birds with a return of \$759.01 per farm and \$2.12 per bird.

Held 2 cooperative lamb sales and one cooperative wool sale. 14 producers cooperated in the lamb sale selling 303 lambs weighing 20,865 l.s. netting farmers \$2611.22. Choice lambs brought farmers \$17.50 as compared with \$10.00 for local sales. 10 farmers sold 1651 lbs. wool for \$754.31 clean wool sold for 53¢ per lb. compared with 35¢.

3. Cotton Mattress and Comforts Program.

There was 455 comforts made by the low income families in Camden County and a total of 546 mattresses.

4. AAA Program.

We have 725 farms signed up under the AAA Program with approximately 650 in line for payments this year. The ones that are not eligible for payments are the ones who are over planted their allotments or have not carried out their soil-building units.

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The farmers have received during the year through their cooperation with the AAA Program \$50,622.05. 1468 ton ground limestone, 50,000 lbs. Austrian Winter peas and 25,000 lbs. of Crimson Clover Seed.

In carrying out the 1943 Programs, Extension, AAA and war programs, the leaders, and Committeemen will be ask to do more community work due to the shortage of gas and tires and the amount of work to be done.

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