

N O R T H   C A R O L I N A  
A G R I C U L T U R A L   E X T E N S I O N   S E R V I C E  
A N N U A L   N A R R A T I V E   R E P O R T

1950

BLADEN  
COUNTY

A. C. Mc LENDON  
NEGRO COUNTY AGENT.

INTRODUCTION  
1950

PROJECTS RECEIVING MAJOR EMPHASIS THIS YEAR.

A. AGRONOMY:

1. Pastures:

Pasture interest has been so high this year that even at this late date in November information is still being sought on how to get started and if its to late to plant.

Soil test were made on 216 different farmers who planted 438 acres of Pasture this fall.

Agronomy schools, community meetings, circular letter, visits and news articles accounts for the increase.

In another 12 months most land owners will have some Pasture.

2. Tobacco:

With a continued interest in tobacco as our basic cash crop, I am very pleased to see how farmers are adopting practices handed them by the N. C. Experiment station. Three or four years ago tobacco bed that had been treated for weed control were hard to find on farms in the County. However, today most farmers have been convinced that it pays. Another thing that also pleases me is that this year, more farmers used Ferate or other Control materials for blue mold, and found that they were in better condition when planting time rolled around.

Farmers are also getting more concerned about disease in the field and varieties immune to the diseases found.

3. Corn:

The farmers who plant no hybrid at all is hard to find in Bladen County, but there are many who plants one and two acres to call thier show spots.

There are no demonstrations carried out in corn production but through General Education meeting visits, circulars, bulletin, farmers beamed with pride for us to see his hybrid corn.

Weevil control is our next big job. If this can be gotten over, our hybrid corn worries are over.

#### 4. Peanuts:

We cant forget the peanuts as it is growing in popularity. Prices have won most farmers over that the crop will pay. We count this crop next to tobacco in our cash crops.

This has been a very favorable year for producing a good grade of nut, however many were lost during our Sept. and October rains.

#### 5. Cotton:

Sometimes it takes an insect like the old boll weevil to wake up a cotton farmer.

I understand that once upon a time cotton was Bladen's number one cash crop. However in some sections farm people had quit the crop.

Prices make the difference in some farmers decision. Many farmers planted thier allotment this year and yet failed to use a control for the boll weevil. as result very low yields. Other farmers took recommendations and made a fair yield.

Our biggest problem for another year will be to control that, boll weevil, if we can find seed to plant another season.

### B. HORTICULTURE:

#### 1. Gardens:

Slowly we are convincing our farm people that a garden is our number one food getter. I am proud to state that farmers are showing the greatest interest in gardening I have ever seen in Bladen County. There are more collards, turnips and carrots this fall than ever and many farm men and women are planning for early spring garden ever now.

#### 2. Fruits & Nuts:

Trees purchased last fall and spring are doing very well. Eight percent failed to live. This was because the owners failed to follow instruction.

Requests are being made for help in securing trees this winter. The drive has started for 1000 trees during 51.

### C. AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING:

A little of the drainage problem has been erased, but not enough.

It remains our number one problem in the County.

One Community has joined hands and pocketbook in an effort to correct the drainage condition.

With the cooperation of the Soil conservation Office two miles has been surveyed and will be done at a cost of \$2100.00. Ten farmers are cooperating.

More building plans for tobacco barns, sweet potato curing house and storages and small dairy barns than ever. Also machinery is finding its place on Negro farms.

#### D. DAIRYING:

Although we do not have a single negro dairyman in Bladen at the present, there are four who plan to get started. They have secured blue prints so as to start planning. The Farm Home Administration, has offered assistance financially to interest farmers.

Cooperately 19 registered bulls and 1 registered heifer were purchased from the Biltmore Dairies, Ashville, N. C.

Six other heifers and one other bull were purchased during the year.

#### E. LIVE STOCK:

Local horse and mule clinics have been very beneficial in our County, since we do not have a Veterinarian here.

Night clinics were held to examine work stock in eight different neighborhoods. One hundred-eighty seven animals were examined, one hundred thirty six were treated, one hundred and twenty six were wormed, eleven treated for bots and sixty nine had some dental work.

All this work was done on a discount basis.

#### F. SWINE HUSBANDRY:

Pork and lard were produced in abundance this year. Home uses in general were supplied.

Some times low prices can do good to a farmer. It seems that prices on hogs fall very definitely during the hog killing seasons and we can clearly see why. However a number of farmers have sold many hogs near Christmas and ended up with not enough meat for home use. Low prices caused farmers not to sell but kill for home use.

The freezer locker has also helped in this home food supply.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL SITUATION  
AT THE BEGINNING OF 1949

A. AGRONOMY:

1. Pastures:

At the beginning of 1950 with only one hundred and fifteen acres of permanent Pasture planted on 1504 farms, we could keenly see more pasture need to be planted.

Through Educational meetings, a pasture demonstration, visits and circular letters, and additional 438 acre were planted this fall. The needs are still what I would consider acute. We planned to work with the same amount of energy in 1951 as in 1950.

2. Corn:

Practically all farmers are planting some hybrid corn but, not enough acreage. The yields on old corn have increase immensely.

It is the belief that most farmers are convinced by methods used with producing hybrid corn and are using it with their regular seed.

Practically enough corn is being produced to fulfill the local needs.

3. TOBACCO:

What farmer would not be interested in tobacco or any crop that sells for 7¢ per pound?

At the beginning of 1950 the out look was good. Farmers took a greater interest in producing a quality product.

The out look is as good as last year and can expect farmers to be equally as interested in producing not only quality but more pounds.

C. DAIRYING:

Dairying is hoped to become a very important enterprise in Elsdon County if our Pasture interest continues upward.

At the beginning of 1950 the Cow population was still low in comparison with the needs. Interest had been high on purchasing bull calves from Biltmore Dairies, and just at the beginning of 1950 we purchased 19 bull calves and 1 heifer from there. One calf was lost by neglect.

Cows on hand at the beginning of 1950 were not producing all they could, because of a need for better feeding practices, more feed available, additional pasture, and better sanitary condition needed.

D. POULTRY:

We still have some few farmers who must buy eggs and Poultry if their family get them, yet some families sell eggs, broiler, fryers, and hens all year round.

Housing, Pastures, other feed, and good strains, of chicks are the general need.

E. AGRICULTURE ENGINEERING:

Drainage remained our number one problem at the beginning of 1950.

More electric current has been extended to Negro farm homes and yet it is a general need.

Better roads are needed in some cases, although greatly improved over previous years, and Gov. Scott has been a wonderful help in the County by launching better road drive.

EXTENSION ORGANIZATION AND  
PLANNING

A. WHAT WAS PLANNED: (Adult)

1. Seventeen leader training meetings.
2. One hundred and six leaders to assist.
3. Two long time planning meeting plan.
4. Two news articles were to be written.
5. Three circulars letter to be written.

B. WHAT WAS DONE: (Adult)

1. Four leader training meeting were held with 73 leaders and 35 other present.
2. Seventy three leaders assisted in planning the work.
3. Two long time planning meetings were held. 93 present.
4. One news article was written.
5. Six circular letter were written.

C. WHAT WAS PLANNED: (4-H)

1. One hundred and twenty regular 4-H meetings planned.
2. Three County Council meetings
3. 14 Four-H members to camp.
4. County Picnic at Jones Lake.
5. Train 24 judging teams.
6. Train 24 demonstration teams.
7. Six boys take part in Cattle Show.
8. Three boys take part in Sweet Potato show.
9. Hold one County Achievement day program.
10. Hold three leader schools.
11. Twelve Community Projects.
12. Thirteen 4-H Sunday Programs.

D. WHAT WAS DONE:

1. Held 120 regular 4-H Club meetings.
2. Held 2 County Council meetings.
3. Ten boys went to camp.
4. Held County Picnic with District group at Jones Lake.
5. Trained 352 boys in judging sweet potatoes.
6. Trained 34 demonstration teams.
7. Four boys took part in sweet potato show.
8. One County Achievement day held with 250 present.
9. Held three leader training schools, 47 present.
10. Six Clubs had Community projects.
11. Twelve 4-H Sunday Services were held, 1600 attended.

## LINES OF WORK AND ACTIVITIES.

A. AGRONOMY:1. What was planned: (Adult)

- (a) Improve corn yield.
- (b) Get ten farmers to join the five acre contest.
- (c) Three result demonstrations on Soybean Production.
- (d) Peanut Education meetings.
- (e) Promote more interest in weed control in tobacco beds.

2. Procedure:

- a. This work was to be accomplished by making 21 farm visits, holding seventeen leader meetings, give four method demonstrations, conduct six result demonstration, hold twenty four Educational meetings, get the assistance of 106 leaders, write five circular letters and four news articles.

3. WHAT WAS DONE:

- (a) Held County Agronomy school with Mr. Hodges, Mr. Dodsons, and Mr. Hawks. Present 112 farmers present.
- (b) Sixteen farmers met at Wm. Wooten permanent pasture to discuss his practices in getting it started.
- (c) Three pasture production meetings using slides 126 present.
- (d) Started two oat production demonstrations using Arlington Oats and again a Common mixed strain.
- (e) Took 135 Soil samples.
- (f) Made 198 visits.
- (g) Held two leader training meetings.
- (h) Assisted 480 different farmers in obtaining improved varieties of corn seed or wheat or pasture, tobacco or cotton seed.
- (i) Assisted 391 different farmers with the use of lime or fertilizer or both.
- (j) Farmers planted 438 additional acres of pasture.
- (k) Seventy-four days were spent on crop production in the eight communities with 106 leaders assisting.

Corn:

Of the seventy-four days spent ten of them were spent in corn production in eight communities with the assistance of 40 leaders.

The corn yield has moved up to about 40 bushel average in the last three years. Not too much time was given to its production this year.

Wheat:

Three days were spent in wheat production. I feel that more time, will have to be given during the next two years with



equipment for harvesting growing steady in number.

Held three neighborhood meetings on small grain production.

Oats:

Quite a few farmers have been planting oats for hay for some time however, with new high producing varieties and with harvesting machinery increasing more oats for grain and seed will be produced.

Boy Newell and Otto Bledks of Clarkton and Rt 2 Clarkton respectively have 3 acre demonstrations of Arlington Oats. These are all of this variety planted by Negroes in the County. We hope to have many farmers to plant them next year by buying seeds from them.

Milumes:

Ten days were spent with cover crops and hays.

Soil building crops are needed on most farms in the County. More farmer are planting now than any other year previous.

Pastures:

Thirty days were spent with Pasture work in 8 communities with 90 leaders assisting.

As days may show, farmers are very interested in getting a pasture on their farms.

430 addition acres of pasture were planted this year.

Through demonstrations, circulars, Educational meeting, meetings at demonstration, visits and bull&times, we have made the County Pasture conscious. I am beginning to think that after another years campaigning farmers will realize that a farm program is not complete with out pasture enough to take care of his animals.

Cotton:

Five days were spent in two Communities with twelve leaders assisting.

Seventeen farmers were assisted in securing improved wilt resistant seed while seven of them had their soil tested to find how much, and kind of fertilizer to use and if lime was needed.

Cotton was not planted all over the County until prices increase here lately. The number of handicaps is the boll weevil.

Many farmers will follow a close spraying program next year after seeing the increases where fields were properly sprayed.

Tobacco:

Twelve and two tenths days were spent with tobacco in 8 Communities with twenty readers assisting.

Seventy-five farmers were assisted with securing improved varieties of seed, and thirty-five of these had soil tested.

Weed control, Blue mold control and disease control were the most stressed subjects.

Peanuts:

Two and one half days were spent with peanuts in two communities with eight leaders assisting.

Fourteen were assisted in obtaining improved seed, four with use of lime through soil test and twenty eight in controlling leaf spot.

One Educational meeting was held on general production practice.

B. AGRONOMY: (4-H)

1. What Was Planned:

- a. Ninety 4-H members to carry corn projects.
- b. Three 4-H members to carry five acre cotton projects.
- c. Nineteen 4-H members to carry peanut projects.

2. Procedure:

- a. Train 12 four-H leaders.
- b. Make 13 visits.
- c. Give 2 method demonstration.
- d. Write 2 news articles.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Completed 68 corn projects, producing 3560 bushels from 89 acres.
- b. Completed 19 Peanut projects consisting of 10 acres.
- c. Completed three cotton demonstration averaging 1200 lbs. of seed cotton per acre.

C. PARK MANAGEMENT:

1. What Was Planned:

- a. Fifty-eight farmers to keep records two of which are to be demonstration.

- b. Organize a Community.
- c. Get outlook material over to farm people.
- d. Home and Farm tour in this organized Community.

2. Procedure:

- a. Make 40 home visits.
- b. Hold seven method demonstrations.
- c. Two general Educational meetings
- d. Assistance of 105 leaders.
- e. Six circular letters
- f. Three news articles.
- g. Devote 15.0 days.

3. What Was Done:

- 1. Spent 4- days in two Communities on Farm Accounts and records.
- 2. Spent 3 days in three Communities of Farm Planning and Management.
- 3. Spent 3.5 days in two Communities on Farm Credit.
- 4. Spent seventeeh days getting out look information to farmers in 8 Communities.
- 5. Sixty-four leaders assisted.
- 6. Twenty farmers kept records.
- 7. Thirteen farmers developed a farm plan.
- 8. Six farmers developed a farm and home plan.
- 9. Nine farmers were assisted in land lord-tenant relationship.
- 10. Assisted eight in getting started in farming.
- 11. Four assisted with credit problems.
- 12. Reached 530 men and women in 8 Community planning meetings and through circular letters.
- 13. Three hundreds and eight assisted with Increase tax information.
- 14. Ninety one assisted with plans to supplement income.

D. DAIRYING: (Adult)

1. What was planned:

- a. Place Twenty Five bulls
- b. Secure 15 Heifer calves
- c. Educational meetings on improving milk quality.

2. Procedure:

- a. Make 43 visits.
- b. Give one method demonstration
- c. Assistance of 86 leaders.
- d. Two circulars
- e. Two articles.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Spent Four days in four communities with 18 leaders assisting.
- b. Purchased 19 registered bulls.
- c. Held county Dairy School 92 attended.
- d. Five Farmers attended the dairy school at A. & T. College.

D. DAIRYING: (4-H)1. What Was Planned:

- a. Five 4-H members to carry calf project.
- b. Forty-six boys to participate in local, and district cattle shows.
- c. Method demonstration on Improving milk quality.

2. Procedure:

- a. Make 21 visits.
- b. Hold 15 method demonstrations.
- c. Sixty-two leaders to assist.
- d. Two circular letters.
- e. One news articles

3. What Was Done:

- a. Completed five dairy projects.
- b. Five boys to take part in the Junior Dairy Cattle Show at Fayetteville, winning 3 red ribbons and 2 blue ribbons.
- c. Twelve demonstrations were given on producing clean milk.
- d. Three demonstrations were given on processing Dairy animals for the show.

E. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY:(Adult)1. What Was Planned:

- a. Get material to special neighborhoods on herd management.
- b. Hold Horse and Mule clinics.

2. Procedure:

- a. Two method demonstration meetings on herd management.
- b. Plan and hold 12 horse and mule clinics.
- c. Fifty one leaders to assist.
- d. Two circular letters.
- e. One article.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Eight days were spent in 8 Communities with twenty two leaders assisting.
- b. Assist with purchasing of 10 registered boars.
- c. Six high grades were purchased.
- d. Assisted twenty one farmer in controlling worms.
- e. Held eight horse and mule clinics, examined 187 treated 136

N. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY: (4-H)

1. What Was Planned:

- a. Start a pig chain
- b. One hundred and twenty five 4-H members to carry projects in Fat Hogs for market.

2. Procedure:

- a. Make 13 visits.
- b. Give 12 method demonstrations on fattening hogs for market.
- c. Assistance from eight leaders.
- d. One news article.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Four and a half days were spent in eight communities with 20 leaders assisting.
- b. One hundred and twenty one pig projects completed with 141 animals weighing approximately 28,200 lbs. and valued at \$5,076.00.

P. POULTRY:(ADULT)

1. What Was Planned:

- (a) Work with 50 families on broiler production and laying flock, management with 10 families on raising poultis and 10 on growing flock management.

2. Procedure:

- (4) To make 22 farm home visits.
- (b) To give 3 method demonstration.
- (c) Held nine educational meetings.
- (d) Get assistance from 58 leaders.
- (e) Write three circular letters.
- (f) Write one news article.

3. What Was Done:

- (a) Increase poultry meat and eggs for home use.
- (b) Held four Educational meetings.
- (c) Made 17 visits.

4. What Was Planned: (4-H)

- (a) Enroll 75 four-H members in Broiler projects.
- (b) One 4-H member will raise poultis.

5. Procedure:

- a. Make 15 visits.
- b. Write one circular letter to 4-H teachers.
- c. 14 neighborhood leaders to assist.

6. What Was Done:

- a. 78 4-H Projects were completed, raising 2000 birds weighing around 40000 lbs. and valued at \$1,200.00. Some pullets were saved for replacing the family flocks.
- b. Two turkey projects were completed with 41 birds weighing 615 lbs. and valued at \$246.00

G. PLANT PATHOLOGY:1. What Was Planned: (Adult)

- a. Give Method demonstration on Blue mold control
- b. To have two farmers carry result demonstration on Blue mold control.
- c. Fifty farmers to receive assistance on leaf spot control in peanuts.
- d. To have one farmer carry demonstration on leaf spot control in peanut.
- e. One farmer conduct a result demonstration on leaf spot control.
- f. Locate wilt resistant cotton and tobacco seed.

2. Procedure:

- a. Make twenty-five visits.
- b. Give three method demonstrations.
- c. Three result demonstrations.
- d. Assistance from 55 leaders.
- e. Write four circular letters
- f. Four news articles.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Three method demonstrations were given.
- b. Ten visits were made.
- c. Twenty eight farmers were assisted with plant disease control.

H. MARKETING: (Adult)1. What Was Planned:

- a. To assist 50 farmers with marketing sweet potatoes.
- b. Educational meetings on preparation of certain produce for sale.

c. Assist 125 person with Special sales and purchase.

2. Procedure:

- a. Make 25 visits.
- b. Hold 10 Educational meeting to be held.
- c. One new article to be written.

3. What was Done:

- a. Made 14 visits.
- b. Assisted 20 Farmers with purchasing 19 Bull calves and one heifer.
- c. 14 were assisted with marketing poultry and eggs.
- d. Thirty were assisted in marketing milk and butter, purchasing or selling of cows.
- e. One hundred and fifty were helped in finding a market for vegetables.
- f. Two hundred were assisted with marketing and classifying tobacco.

I. FORESTRY: (Adult)

1. What Was Done:

- a. To assist 150 farmers with timber thinning problems.
- b. To train 50 farmers on building fire breaks.
- c. To train 20 leaders on timber scaling methods.
- d. One special interest meeting on general forestry problems.

2. Procedure:

- a. Make 18 visits
- b. Five Educational meetings with Extension Forester assisting.
- c. Five method demonstrations.
- d. Assistance of 100 N. H. leaders.
- e. Five circular letters.
- f. Four news articles.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Two farmers were assisted with the planting of four acres of short leaf pines.
- b. Assisted three farmers with timber appraisal.

J. FORESTRY: (4-H)

1. What was Planned:

- a. 12 method demonstrations on scaling timber.

2. Procedure:

- a. 12 method demonstrations during regular 4-H Club meeting.

- b. Assistance of 60 leaders.
- c. One circular letter.
- d. Twelve visits.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Gave eleven method demonstrations on scaling tiger.

J. HORTICULTURE: (Adult)

1. What Was Planned:

- a. Work with 50 families on new orchards.
- b. Work with 150 families on home gardens.
- c. Community meeting on landscaping.
- d. Teach 125 families on Methods of harvesting sweet potatoes.

2. Procedure:

- a. Make twenty-four visits.
- b. Give 6 Method Demonstrations.
- c. 100 leaders to assist.
- d. Eight circular letters.
- e. Two news articles.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Made 41 visits.
- b. Held two general Educational meetings.
- c. Assisted 120 families in Vegetables production.
- d. Assisted 21 families with fruit production.

HORTICULTURE: (4-N)

1. What Was Planned:

- a. Sixty boys to carry Garden Projects.
- b. Give demonstrations on Harvesting Sweet potatoes.

2. Procedure:

- a. Fifteen visits.
- b. 12 Method demonstrations on Harvesting Sweet potatoes.
- c. Sixty-eight leaders to assist.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Gave 25 demonstrations on phases of horticulture.
- b. Fifty seven gardens projects completed.
- c. Ten sweet potato Projects completed.



K. ENTOMOLOGY: (Adult)1. What Was Done:

- a. Reach 100 farmers on Boll Weevil control.
- b. Reach 100 families on controlling garden pest.
- c. Reach 50 farmers on controlling Weevil in corn.
- d. Reach 150 persons in controlling rats.

2. Procedure:

- a. Make 29 Visits.
- b. Give 22 method demonstrations.
- c. Twenty-five leaders to assist.
- d. Four circular letters.
- e. One news article.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Made six visits.
- b. Assisted 40 families in controlling internal parasites of pork stock.
- c. Assisted 21 farmers in controlling internal parasites of swine.
- d. Assisted 23 farmers in controlling parasites internally and externally in cattle.

1. What Was Planned: (4-8)

- a. Help 125 boys in controlling garden pest.
- b. Assist 20 boys with methods of controlling corn weevil.

2. Procedure:

- a. Make 7 visits.
- b. Give 9 method demonstrations
- c. 32 leaders to assist.

3. What Was Done:

- a. Held seven meetings on insect control.

L. AGRICULTURAL RECOMMENDING: (Adult)1. What Was Planned:

- a. Teach 50 farm families with information on preparing barn for control of Weevil in corn.
- b. Train 100 leaders on uses of hand tools on the farm.
- c. Farm machinery schools.
- d. Educational meetings on Drainage.

**2. Procedure:**

- a. Make 11 farm visits.
- b. Give 13 Method Demonstrations.
- c. Four Educational meetings on Drainage.
- d. Ninety leaders to assist.
- e. Seven circular letters.
- f. Two news articles
- g. Specialist to assist.

**3. What Was Done:**

- a. Made twenty visits.
- b. Held one Educational meeting on drainage.
- c. Gave two Method demonstrations.
- d. Assisted 62 with drainage problems.
- e. Assisted 4 with cleaning land.
- f. Assisted 31 with storage.
- g. Assisted 31 with construction of farm buildings.
- h. Assisted 12 with remodeling or repairing farm buildings.
- i. Assisted 20 with selecting of equipment.
- j. Helped 43 to obtain electricity.
- k. Helped 22 on use of electricity.
- l. Assisted 34 in obtaining sanitary toilets.
- m. Assisted 25 with greens and improving home grounds.
- n. Assisted 18 with building or remodeling home.
- o. Assisted 14 with water systems or sewage system or both.
- p. Assisted 12 in obtaining sufficient banking system and storage space.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

1. Two longtime planning meetings held 93 present.
2. Four adult leader training meetings. 73 leaders and 35 others present.
3. Three 4-H leader training meetings held 47 present.
4. One County 4-H Achievement Day held 250 present.
5. Six clubs had Community Projects.
6. Twelve 4-H Sunday services, 1000 attended.
7. Trained 352 boys in judging sweet potatoes.
8. Trained 34 demonstration teams.
9. Held 2 County Council meetings.
10. Held 120 regular 4-H meetings.
11. Ten boys went to camps.
12. Purchase 19 registered bull calves and one registered heifer from the Biltmore dairy, Ashville.
13. Seeded 438 acres of permanent pastures.
14. Held County rat control program.
15. Held horse and mule clinics.
16. Forty-three families put in electricity.
17. Eleven built new houses.
18. Seven remodeled.
19. Four hundred and five boys enrolled in some kind of project and 373 completed projects.

WAYS OF STRENGTHENING NEXT YEARS WORK IN  
THE LIGHT OF THIS YEARS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

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1. More leader training meetings.
2. New Survey in order to keep abreast with County needs.
3. More long time planning meetings.
4. Educate 4-H leaders more thoroughly on their duties.
5. Replace unactive leaders by letting Communities decide who is more willing to assist.
6. More publicity to the accomplishments through tours, news articles, and meetings.
7. Allot more time to needs than to the interest of the agent.
8. Closer planning between farm and home Agents.