

V. Project Activities and Results

(d) Tobacco

damage in the Old Sparta section of the county. Several farmers collected 100% on their hail insurance policies.

As to varieties, the farmers are planting the ones that are the heaviest yielders. Bottom Special is perhaps the most popular. Many farmers were well pleased with the 402 variety. It gives good yields and is an excellent curer. Rufus Thomas, Rocky Mount, R-2, tried some of the Yellow Special variety developed at the Virginia Experiment Station. He says that it yields good and that he intends to plant more in 1946. White Stem, Virginia Bright Leaf and Mammoth Gold are still popular in the Macclesfield section. This is a section of the county noted for raising quality tobacco. Not as much attention is paid to quality now, quantity is the thing that counts. It is the conclusion of many that when price ceilings are lifted, the market will go back on a grade and quality basis. This could very easily take place on the 1946 crop.

(e) Peanuts

As in the last 3 years, Edgecombe County farmers again planted large acreages of peanuts. Help was scarce and German prisoners were used to harvest the crop. The yield this year was extremely poor in some sections of the county and the over-all yield is much lower than last year. The quality of the nuts are generally good and prices are well above the government support price of eight cents per pound.

The prisoners-of-war stacked a total of 76,152 stacks of peanuts for 88 farmers. They also assisted a few farmers in threshing their peanuts.

The use of sulphur for the control of leafspot was limited largely for the reason that labor just was not available at the time the sulphur should have been applied. Frequent rains also interfered with the normal dusting schedule. Aeroplane dusting was done for several farmers and excellent results have been reported by some where the dusting was done according to schedule and was not washed off too quickly after being applied. C. J. Weeks reports that he is getting 3 to 5 bags per acre more on the peanuts he dusted than on those left undusted.

Treating seed to prevent decay was quite general this year. Most of the farmers make this their practice. They have been convinced by tests and results during previous years that this is a paying practice. Practically one-third of the peanut farmers follow this practice.

Three peanut fertilization demonstrations were started this year with C. J. Weeks, R. C. Barnhart and H. S. White. All three of these involved fertilizing the crop preceding peanuts, therefore they are on a two-year basis. Both R. C. Barnhart and H. S. White fertilized soybeans at variable rates with 3-12-12. These plots are to be planted in peanuts in 1946 and yields checked to determine the value of indirect fertilization. C. J. Weeks used 150 pounds of muriate of potash per acre on one plot of corn and none on the rest. Peanuts are to follow the corn next year and effect of potash will be noted.

The results of the study of the effect of different rates of calcium on extremely acid, sandy soil made in cooperation with the Experiment

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(c) Peanuts (cont'd)

Station with H. S. White are not available at this date. Variations between plots ran as high as 9 bags, however.

Dr. Collins is to be complimented on his handling of the agronomy program. More real progress has been made under the corn production program inaugurated by him than has been made in a long time. The timely information in the agronomy leaflets prepared under his direction were an important factor in getting good ideas across to the farmers.

2. Forestry

Forestry is beginning to play a more important part in the farming program. With the coming of the war the price of lumber jumped considerably. Not only did the government need timber to build ships, planes, barracks, etc., but there was a great demand for lumber to repair and build homes.

Forestry thinning and care of the farm wood supply have been emphasized by the agents. People are slowly beginning to realize the value of this on their farms. Efforts are being made wherever possible to conserve and replenish the depleting wood supply. Several people have ordered trees to set out as a method of replenishing their wood supply. People ordering trees this year are:

A. A. Battle	500	Red Cedars
Mrs. Gus E. Lancaster	500	Red Cedars
J. C. Powell	2,000	Loblolly
	1,000	Longleaf
Romaine Howard	10,000	Loblolly
	2,500	Longleaf
Dail Holderness	10,000	Loblolly
E. S. Edmondson	<u>10,000</u>	Loblolly
Total	36,500	

Over 55% of the acreage of Edgecombe County is in forest or in waste land that should be in forest. This county is badly in need of a Farm Forester. A full time man could be used to a very good advantage for wood lot management by the farmers in the county.

Mr. A. A. Battle, who began a Christmas tree project with a quarter of an acre of Red Cedars in 1932, is still selling Christmas trees. Mr. Battle has set out additional cedars recently to take place of those he has sold. He has no trouble in finding plenty of customers for his trees. Mr. Battle finds this a productive and profitable method of tree growing.

Several calls for timber estimates made it necessary to secure a Farm Forester to cruise and mark certain tracts for cutting. The services of J. E. Hobbs, Wake County Farm Forester, was secured and estimates were made for W. C. Hargrove, Tarboro, B-2, and Johnnie O. Cooke,

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2. Forestry (cont'd)

Whitakers, B-1. Cooke had been offered \$950.00 for a tract of timber on his place on a clean cut basis. Mr. Hobbs marked the trees that should be cut, a buyer accepted his estimate and bid on a per thousand basis, agreeing to cut only the trees which Hobbs had marked. Cooke received \$1,899.85, twice the original bid, and because of the Forester's selective marking he can expect to sell another crop of trees 10 or 15 years from now. Mr. Hargrove's timber was marked in the same manner, but before a sale could be made a severe fire burned over his woods, obliterating the marks. Others requesting this service were Frank Edmondson, Miss Sally Staton and Dail Holderness.

Mr. Graeber, the Extension Forester, is one of the most respected members of the specialist staff, not only by the farmers of the county but by the townspeople as well. His ability to adapt his talk to his audience has made him friends among the business leaders as well as among 4-H Club members.

3. Horticulture

The 4-H Club boys and girls of the county have for the past several years made up a cooperative fruit tree order. During the past year they ordered 871 fruit trees for 68 farmers in the county. Through this method they are able to offer the farmer a chance to get good fruit trees at a reasonable price.

The fruit crop in the county was light this year. Lack of labor and equipment prevented many people from spraying their trees this year. Borers continue to be one of the worst menaces to peach production.

Home gardens did not have to be emphasized by the agents this year. Rationing and shortages made everyone realize the need of raising their own food. For the people in Tarboro, the Kiwanis Club offered prizes to the persons having the best gardens. The County Agent and the Home Agent were the judges. The gardens were judged twice during the year and the winners were Mr. J. D. Padgett and Mr. L. W. Shook.

Community canning has been brought about by installation of canning equipment at Leggett and South Edgecombe schools. More fruits, vegetables and meats were canned by the people in those sections than ever before. Several days were spent by the people in each community canning for the schools lunch rooms.

There were 42 boys taking gardening as their 4-H project. Food production and conservation were stressed at the 4-H camp this summer.

The Town of Tarboro has become conscious of its neglect to the trees on the streets and in the common. The advice of John Harris, Extension Horticultural and Landscape specialist was sought by the tree committee and as usual he very ably presented a beautification plan for the town that was adopted by the committee.

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4. Poultry

Greater emphasis has been placed upon culling of poultry this year as the feed for poultry has been short. There are several very good flocks of chickens in the county. The agents culled some flocks and found only about 5-10% culls, which is low. On the other hand there were some bad flocks in which almost 80% were classed as culls.

Mr. H. M. Britt, Sr., of Tarboro, R-1, is still an R.O.P. breeder. He is the only such breeder in Edgecombe County at present. Mr. Britt has won wide acclaim for his success as a Rhode Island Red Breeder.

With the shortage of meat, demand for broilers and fryers increased during the year. It was almost impossible to obtain chicks unless one placed their order 2 or 3 months in advance.

There were 39 boys enrolled in poultry in the 4-H clubs in 1945. Thirty-two of them completed their projects, which involved around 3,425 birds.

5. Dairy Cattle

Considerable interest is being shown in milk production principally for home use. By food rationing, from radio programs and through the efforts of the agents, people are realizing more and more the need of milk in a balanced diet to help America grow strong.

There have been a lot of cattle sales in the county this year. Several dairy farmers have seeded new permanent pastures and renovated old ones. Temporary pastures have played a very important part among our established dairymen as a source of cheap feed. Several have adopted a program of continuous grazing. This is done by using small grains, winter legumes and rye grass in the fall, winter and spring, and soybeans, red clover and lespedeza in the summer and early fall. These crops stimulate milk flow as well as provide an economic source of food production.

Many farmers have made improvements in their permanent pastures by applying lime, phosphate and fertilizer. Reseeding and terracing have also played an important part in the renovating of some of our pasture lands.

A number of the dairymen were asked to plant 1 to 3 acres of alfalfa last fall as demonstrations. Those planting were well pleased with the results and the majority are expanding their acreage. Dairymen seeding alfalfa this fall are George Bradley, Thomas L. Tolson and A. C. Hims. Sufficient hay has always been an ever present problem with our dairymen. Alfalfa may be the possible solution. C. H. Henderson seeded approximately 20 acres in Red Clover and 9 acres in Ladino Clover for his dairy herd this fall. All of the above followed the Extension Service recommendations as to lime, fertilizer and seeding rates and practices.

There were 15 boys shown enrolled in dairy calf in 4-H Club work.

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6. Beef Cattle, Sheep and Work Stock

A. Beef Cattle

The beef cattle program during the past year was centered on herd management. Fifty-four beef cattle producers were advised to practice controlled breeding, breed cows in April, May and June. Creep feed calves a grain mixture during summer while they were running with their mothers. Sell their calves in the fall at weaning time when they are from 6 to 8 months old. Cull out poor producing cows and not to keep more cows than could be wintered over in good condition. A number of Edgcombe cattle producers have already adopted these principles and are well pleased with the results they are getting.

C. W. Mayo, Tarboro, N-1, has followed the practices outlined above for the past three years and is exceedingly well pleased with the results. In September of this year he sold at auction a number of his calves that were dropped in January, February and March. These calves averaged a little over 800 pounds and sold for an average of \$81 per head.

Ten Hereford bulls were placed in the Alabama Consignment Sales by H. G. Shelton, of Speed, and J. L. Wiggins, of Rocky Mount, N-2. C. W. Mayo, another purebred Hereford producer, sold 2 calves at the State sale.

More interest is being shown in both permanent and temporary pastures for beef cattle grazing. Approved seed mixtures are being sown and more farmers are inclined to follow fertilizer and liming recommendations. Permanent pastures are also being seeded on better land.

The Annual Fat Stock Show and Sale held at Rocky Mount this year was one of the best insofar as beef cattle were concerned. The 69 head of calves showed the result of good feeding. There were 8 entered from Edgcombe in the sale. These brought from 23¢ to 26¢ per pound and were shown by E. H. Moore, Sally Anderson, Virginia Bryant, Peggy Bryant, William Moore, Jr., Douglas Mason, Estelle Flye and Felix Stallings. The Grand Champion of the show brought \$1.00 per pound. Edgcombe placed fourth in the county group of five and the judging team, composed of William Moore, Jr., Cecil Simons, and Calvin Eriley, placed third.

Interested business men, farmers, etc., of the county formed the Edgcombe 4-H Development Association for the benefit of the 4-H Club boys and girls who desire to feed calves for the shows and sales. The purpose of the organization is to see that Edgcombe club members get a fair and reasonable price for their calves.

The majority of these calves were purchased locally and the same thing holds true with those purchased this summer for the next spring show and sale. In fact, all of those purchased by the boys this summer were locally raised calves. The average cost per pound, purchase price plus cost of feed, equalled 18.1 cents and the average selling price of those sold last spring was 23.05, leaving a net profit for the feeders of 5.04.

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A. Beef Cattle (cont'd)

Mr. L. I. Cass, Extension Animal Husbandman, has given excellent cooperation to the farmers by aiding them in making purchases and helping them to select good breeding stock as well as making valuable suggestions as to the care and feeding of both beef cattle and sheep. He is well liked by the farmers and they respect his judgment.

B. Sheep

Labor difficulties have affected sheep production too. Several flock owners have disposed of their sheep because of incompetent help to look after them. A majority of the remaining flocks have been increased in size and there are now between 35 and 40 flocks in the county. Farmers with flocks produce wool and lambs either for home use or for commercial purposes. The majority of the commercial producers are carrying out a definite flock management program. They follow a sound breeding, feeding and sanitation program from which they are getting good results.

The lamb crop has undergone steady improvement during the past several years by the frequent introduction of purebred sires. Hampshires have given us the best results in filling our market needs. At least 85% of the rams in the county are purebred Hampshires. Each year several new rams are purchased. The following bought Hampshire rams during the past summer: J. C. Powell, Tarboro, H. G. Shelton, Speed, and J. Herbert Pittman, Whitakers, R-1. These were all obtained from the Experiment Station at Wenona.

Two shipments of lambs were made this year. The first shipment consisted of 193 lambs going to Kingan & Co., Richmond, Va., on a f.o.b. basis, with the choice lambs bringing 16¢ per pound, good 15¢ per pound, medium 14¢ and common 8¢ per pound. The second shipment was made on July 3rd. At this time 140 head were shipped f.o.b. to Swift & Company. Choice lambs in this shipment brought 15¢, good 14¢ and medium 12¢ per pound.

The wool was handled in a pool at Williamson this year instead of at Plymouth and Tarboro, as it had to be assembled in our lots of not less than 15,000 pounds for the Commodity Credit Corporation. Edgecombe farmers placed 2654 pounds of wool in the sale for which they received an initial payment of \$940.41. Advances were at the rate of 47¢ per pound for clear wool, 37¢ per pound for light burry and 32¢ per pound for hard burry.

Internal parasites still remain one of the biggest problems in connection with sheep raising in Edgecombe County. The new phenothiazine-salt mixture treatment has given good results. Lambs carried over as breeding stock do much better when the mixture is available at all times. Over half of the sheep producers in the county now use this method of administering phenothiazine.

R. V. Knight and M. T. Ruffin both made an exceptional record with their sheep this year. Mr. Knight has a flock of 29 sheep, 28 ewes and a ram. The ram is a purebred Hampshire that was purchased from the Test Farm at Wenona. The ewes are grade Hampshires, as Mr. Knight has been using

V. Project Activities and Results

B. Sheep (cont'd)

purebred Hampshire rams for about 15 years and saving some of the best ewe lambs to replenish his flock. In the cooperative lamb sale at Tarboro on May 22 he sold 28 lambs for a total of \$381.70. In addition, he kept two lambs at home to slaughter for his own use. Of the 28 lambs sold, 15 graded choice and averaged 100 pounds per head, bringing 16¢ per pound. Nine graded good and averaged 89 pounds per head, bringing 15¢ per pound.

On June 22 at the wool pool in Williamston Mr. Knight sold 175 pounds of clear wool for 47¢ per pound.

The total returns from Mr. Knight's flock of 29 sheep for 1945, including both lambs and wool, was \$458.78 or a return of \$15.81 per ewe. His gross income per ewe in 1944 was \$11.33.

Mr. Knight stated that his sheep pay him a greater return on the amount of money he has invested in them than any other class of livestock on the farm. He flushes his ewes in July and August and removes the ram about the middle of September. This makes his lambs come in December and January. He makes a practice of wintering his flock in the field when plenty of cover crops are sown. He says that a mixture of oats and crimson clover or rye grass and crimson clover gives excellent grazing. In preparing the lambs for market he creep feeds them with a grain mixture in addition to their grazing. During spells of bad weather he would also supplement the old sheep with hay and grain. His flock normally is turned in the field as soon as peanuts have been threshed, usually about December 1, and are allowed to run in the field and on cover crops until planting time. Some of the crimson clover is then fenced off so that green grazing can be supplied until the lambs are shipped and the old sheep go on permanent pasture.

M. T. Ruffin, Tarboro, B-3, a newcomer to the sheep business, sold his lamb crop this year for an average of \$16.20 per head.

C. Work Stock

Horse and mule clinics were held this year at Lawrence's store and Rowland Pittman's store. A total of 25 mules were treated for bots and had their teeth floated. Young mules on the local markets are very high. A good pair of young mules cost from \$750 to \$1000. Very few colts are now being raised in the county.

7. Swine

The hog population of the county hit a new low this past year. Feed has been very scarce for three years due to a short corn crop. The farmers of the county foresaw the shortage of feed and sold their sows and kept only the bare minimum to produce meat for home use. With the present price of feed and hog culling of \$14.55 per cwt, there is no profit in buying feed and feeding out pigs.

V. Project Activities and Results

7. Swine (cont'd)

During the summer there was an extreme shortage of meat. Even now pork is very scarce. Lard and bacon have been "under the counter" for a number of months and indications are they will remain there for a while yet. The demand for barbecue and feeder pigs has risen tremendously. Pigs at the auction markets were bringing as much as finished hogs. Ceiling prices were not in effect on feeder pigs. A person could get almost any price for a pig weighing 60 to 125 pounds.

With a good corn crop, people are beginning now to look for feeders. As a result of all the selling of sows and small pigs there are none to be had. Where any are found, the price is too much to justify feeding out.

Even though hog numbers are being reduced, interest in good breeding stock is being maintained. This fall a purebred boar sale was again held at Rocky Mount in cooperation with the N. C. Swine Breeders Association. The following purchases were made by Edgecombe farmers: Z. V. Long-Duroc boar from M. C. Brantley, Spring Hope; J. R. Pitt-Spotted Poland China from S. L. Lewis, Spring Hope; J. P. Lewis-Berkshire from J. R. Stevens, Palmyra; Mat Mayo-Hampshire boar from A. T. Powell, Colerain; J. P. Armstrong-Duroc boar from H. A. Reynolds, Clinton; G. L. Harrell-OIG boar from T. R. Stevens, Monroe; and J. F. Eason-OIG boar from T. R. Stevens, Monroe. Many sows and gilts have been swapped about in the county.

Like sheep the greatest drawback to swine production is the internal parasite problem. Most of the commercial producers in the county have found that it is essential to practice sanitation if hogs are to be raised at a profit. The majority of the farmers raising them for home consumption still pay very little attention to this important problem.

The Eastern Carolina Fat Stock Show at Rocky Mount has been worth much to both breeders and fat hog producers in furnishing a pattern for type in this section. It has created considerable interest in good feeding practices and in producing the type of hogs that will finish off at the right stage. It has also shown the advantage of cross breeds for general commercial purposes. In the swine division Edgecombe farmers captured quite a few "firsts" and gave keen competition in every class and came off with a good share of the prize money.

Edgecombe farmers who were winners in this department are: W. W. Flye, Battleboro; F. L. Wiggins, Tarboro, B-2; T. T. Taylor, Tarboro, B-3; C. L. Hardy, Battleboro, B-1; C. J. Weeks, Tarboro, B-3; D. L. Quinsey, Whitakers, B-1; Harold A. Braswell, Whitakers; and Cliff Weeks, Jr., Tarboro, B-3. Hogs sold for ceiling price of \$14.55 per cwt.

Jack Kelly, new Swine Specialist, has made quite an impression on the hog breeders in the county. They like his quiet demeanor and sincerity. He is ably filling the shoes of his predecessor, E. V. Vestal.

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8. Plant Pathology

Quite a few farmers treated peanut seed at planting time this year. This is rapidly becoming an important practice with the peanut farmers. Result demonstrations have shown that peanut stands can be increased by as much as 80% by following recommended treating practices.

Peanut dusting was widespread this year. However, the lack of labor and rains prevented many of the farmers from dusting who would have otherwise. Several farmers put on only one or two applications due to insufficient labor. They stated, however, that a difference could be seen in the peanuts.

Blue mold of tobacco was very prevalent but the damage was light. Mosaic showed up in a number of fields this year, especially when tobacco was grown behind tobacco. Sore shank and root rot were also prevalent to some extent in the county. Over 150 pounds of tobacco seed or enough to plant over 10,000 acres were cleaned and treated for farmers in the county. The treatment was for angular leafspot, a disease which is carried over on the seed.

A regular practice among cotton farmers now is to treat their seed with cereasan for the control of "damping off" organism. There are three concerns in the county that clean and treat seed commercially and most farmers usually have their seed treated by them rather than do it on the farm. This year cotton fields showed signs of rust. It was general throughout the county, however, the strong winds that came in August could have been a factor in the falling off of the leaves.

Headquarters for a crop dusting service by aeroplane has been established in Tarboro. This proved to be of valuable aid to farmers in this area in their fight against insects and plant diseases.

9. Entomology

Farmers were given timely information and suggestions regarding the control of major crop insects. The flea beetle, bud worm, horn worm and garden insects were the ones about which the most frequent calls were made. The boll weevil and red spider came in for their share as well as the corn chinch bug and shatter worm.

The arsenate of lead and corn meal poison mixture was followed by the majority of the tobacco growers for the control of bud worms. Paris green and arsenic of lead was the most popular poison for controlling the horn worm and the flea beetle. Rotenone was used by some farmers in an attempt to get rid of flea beetles on the beds.

Seed dealers reported a great demand for insecticides, particularly for Rotenone than ever before. Substitutions had to be made for Rotenone as the supply was restricted by shipping conditions. Cryolite and other available materials had to be substituted. Hardly a day

V. Project Activities and Results

9. Entomology (cont'd)

passed that the agents weren't asked for advice on control measures for some type of garden insect. With the present emphasis on gardening and food production it has resulted in a great demand for both insecticides and for the agents time in assisting with control and remedial problems.

The new insecticide DDT has caused much interest among people of this county. Everyone was anxious to obtain some of the material after the announcement that the government had released it for civilian use. Incessant mid-summer rains made mosquitoes very bad. A new insecticide, sabadilla dust, has proven to be very effective against collard bugs.

The outbreak of chinch bugs was more severe and over a more widespread area this year than ever before. Di-nitro dust, a chemical dust furnished by the Bureau of Plant Industry, gave practically 100% control when used properly. There were 1800 pounds used in this county for protection of corn fields. Farmers of the county are being advised not to plant corn near their small grain fields. A barrier crop should be planted between. The only cost of the di-nitro dust to the farmer was the cost of transportation from Charlotte to Barbora.

10. Agricultural Engineering

Terracing farm lands is still a major problem with the agents. Every winter more applications are received than can be filled. More and more of this work is being turned over to the SCS as aid should be given to the farmer at building time. The time of the agents is so limited with all requests that seldom can the agent remain for the building of the terrace.

There were 15,000 feet of tile ordered by the farmers in the county during the past year. Those ordering tile were: H. G. Shelton, R. V. Knight, J. H. Satterthwaite, P. O. Bulluck, J. C. Carlton, B. F. Eagles, Mrs. Mattie Webb and Lyman Eason. All of these farmers used the tile to drain wet, soggy places in their fields and have found it to be very successful.

The agents attended meetings of the Home Demonstration Clubs of the county in September and gave lectures and information about farm buildings. Many farm families hope to remodel, repair, or build a farm home soon, now that the war is over. Even though all WPB restrictions have been removed, materials cannot be found. The cost of building now is very high and the quality of some work and materials is poor. Judging from the requests for plans and blueprints, of both dwellings and farm buildings, many new buildings will be erected in the next few months if materials can be found.

11. Marketing

The Edgecombe Mutual Livestock Association was organized principally for the purpose of helping farmers market farm produce for which there was no established market. For the most of the farm products there are ready markets located at the county seat, but with hogs, beef cattle, lespedeza seed, crimson clover seed, small grains, lambs,

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11. Marketing (cont'd)

wool, etc., for which there are not definite local market centers, the disposition of these products to an advantage often becomes a problem. The association does not only furnish a cooperative method of selling produce but cooperative purchases of feed and seed are made through it also. During the past year the agents have assisted the members of this association and a number of outside farmers in selling 628 hogs for \$20,955.69, 333 lambs for \$3,409.29 and 2,654 pounds of wool for \$940.41 initial payment for Edgecombe County farmers. In addition to this farmers were assisted in purchasing \$387.35 worth of hybrid seed corn, \$570.15 worth of tile and \$532.94 worth of miscellaneous items.

The officers of the Edgecombe Mutual Livestock Association are: H. G. Shelton, President; R. V. Knight, Vice-President; J. L. Bulluck, Secretary; and Miss A. Helen Marrell, Treasurer. The directors are: Irvin Cherry, Tarboro, R-2; W. W. Flye, Battleboro, R-1; Frank Edmondson, Tarboro, R-1; A. M. Turner, Jr., Tarboro, R-2; and the officers.

12. Farm Management

The need of record keeping has been brought forcibly to the attention of farmers, in the filing of income tax returns. Most all farmers are now having to file income tax returns. With the need of knowing something of their expenses, most every farmer keeps some kind of a record. However, the records he keeps are to his own liking and does him no more good than to serve as a basis of making income tax returns. Most of the farmers do not bother to analyze their records and figure farm income. Many calls were received last spring for information on filing income tax. Simplified record books and advice on keeping these were given to many who tried to file from memory or insufficient records.

M. C. Braswell Farms had their annual picnic dinner this year as usual. A large crowd attended and all had a pleasant time. These meetings have resulted in better farming for the company by the tenants.

In January, joint meetings were held with the Home Demonstration Clubs in each community. The 1945 crop goals were discussed and a chart showing trends in prices received and paid by farmers since 1812. All families were cautioned as to the probability of a drop in prices soon and to be prepared for it. Long time planning and reserves should be built up to guard against unforeseen dangers. Inflation should be guarded against also. Prices of goods now were compared to prices of goods in World War I.

13. 4-H Club Work

Edgecombe County has 15 organized 4-H Clubs at present. There are 5 senior clubs and 10 junior clubs. The present enrollment is 281 boys and 486 girls.

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13. 4-H Club Work (cont'd)

As in the past, all clubs were reorganized at the first meeting in the new school year. Everyone between the ages of 10 and 21 are invited to the meeting. The Club Agent explains 4-H work as it applies to each boy and girl. They discuss what each "H" stands for and the benefits derived from being a 4-H Club member. After the explanation of 4-H Club work, any person who wants to join the club is asked to stay while all others go to their rooms.

All clubs elect their officers, consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary. The rule followed, with no exceptions, was that either a boy or girl could be president but if the president elected was a boy the secretary had to be a girl, or vice versa. The reason for this is to have a boy and a girl at the front officiating. Every club was given a lecture on electing good club officers by the club leaders and urged to elect only the best from their group. They were made to realize their club would only be as good as their officers. Good officers are generally elected to all clubs by this method. The meetings are called to order by the president of the club and a short joint business program follows. Should there be a special program, the entire meeting is held jointly with the girls. However, if a special program is not planned the boys and girls separate and the Agent discusses with the boys some of the problems confronting them with their projects. Ideas are passed along on how to combat certain diseases and insects, the value of terracing, swine production, poultry production, and many other things. The programs are made more interesting to the club member by asking them personal or individual questions about the subject. A free discussion is brought about and certain problems are cleared up at home.

There were nine regular monthly meetings held in all schools. In addition to these, 32 recreational meetings were held at the schools. More will be discussed about the recreational meetings later. All school principals are given notice of meetings ahead of time and the Agents are always on time. The meetings generally last one hour, unless it is something of particular importance the meeting always adjourned at the appointed time. Special emphasis is made that each 4-H Club meeting be held while classes are going on and not while study periods are held. Mimeographed programs are distributed at each meeting. On the back may be printed something of interest to the club member such as announcements, fairs, etc.

Special recreational meetings were held at each school. For some clubs they are held at night and for some during the regular school hours. These meetings usually lasted two to three hours and were enjoyed by all, including the Agents. Special groups such as Home Demonstration Clubs, PFA, 4-H Neighborhood Leaders, etc., served refreshments. The school principals approved of these meetings and cooperated wholeheartedly. After the first such meeting the Agents were asked by all clubs to repeat the occasion. Some schools were visited as many as three times. The meeting consisted of games, square

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13. 4-H Club Work (cont'd)

dancing, sports, etc. The Agents feel that these meetings did more to strengthen 4-H Club work in Edgecombe County than any other one thing. It made the 4-H Club members see that the club leaders were not someone who could not do and enjoy things that they did. In other words, made them feel as if their club leaders were "regular fellows".

Wherever possible and practical the Agent asks each 4-H Club member to have his project separate from their parents' ownership. This is to make them feel the responsibility and realize the cost and value of the project. So many times the project is the club members' until it is sold and then it is daddy's. A special letter was sent to each boy's parents stating the facts about 4-H Club work, requirements and recommendations for the project selected by the boy. This did much toward solving the problem for the club members at home. By having their project separate and following the directions of their club leader the boy in most cases is able to see improvement over his dad's work. This causes parents to take notice of 4-H work and sometimes insist that their other children take 4-H Club work. Their neighbor's attention is called to the fact and in that way 4-H Club work is recognized, improved and enlarged.

Special home visits during the summer months to 4-H Club members homes make them know the club leader better and realize that the club leader is interested in their work. The Agent visited over 90% of all boy 4-H Club members during the past summer months. This necessitated lots of driving and several trips to some houses as the members were not always at home.

County Council

The 4-H County Council is made up of officers of each of the thirteen clubs and a selected group of boys and girls that are outstanding leaders in their communities and projects. There are about 75 members of the council at present. This council meets once each month now that the war is over. A special program of interest to all is planned for each meeting. County Council officers are elected and meetings carried on as regular 4-H Club meetings. It is at such meetings as these that the Dress Revue, Canning Contest, etc., are held and all take part.

Camp

4-H Club Camp was held June 11 to 16 at Jamestown, Va. There were 72 boys and 68 girls that attended, making a total of 140 club members. Classes were held each morning and instructions in project study were given. Mr. J. Y. Lassiter, Extension Horticulturist, spent two days at camp and gave very interesting information on garden work and food production. Mr. C. M. Jackson, Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Livestock Agent, spent two days with us and gave some very interesting information on livestock management.

Each member paid \$8.50 to attend camp. Everyone that could was asked to pay only \$3.00 and carry food. Lots of new members went to camp

V. Project Activities and Results

13. 4-H Club Work (cont'd)

this year. Some went that had never been to 4-H Camp before, even though they had been club members for several years.

All the club members were transported to Jamestown in trucks. The Agents had very good cooperation with truck owners. Mr. W. J. Mason sent his truck and driver, who stayed all the week. Mr. C. W. Mayo sent his truck also. Most of the club members went on Mr. A. E. Bass' truck. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves at camp.

The boys and girls were divided into "A" and "B" groups. These groups were competitive in sports. Sports included horseshoe, volley ball, soft ball and water ball. The two groups were further divided into four groups to do "K.P.". The camp schedule was as follows:

A.M.

7:00	Reveille
7:15	Setting up exercises and flag raising
7:30	Swim
8:00 - 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 - 9:00	Police camp and grounds, work detail
9:00 - 9:30	Assembly and class instruction
9:30 - 11:30	Follow schedule
11:30 - 12:30	Free time (Swim)

P.M.

12:30 - 1:00	Dinner
1:00 - 2:00	Rest period
2:00 - 4:30	Educational tours, hikes, etc.
4:30 - 6:00	Recreation- swim, baseball, hikes, etc.
6:00 - 7:00	Supper
7:00 - 8:00	Recreation
8:00 - 8:30	Vesper services
8:30 - 10:00	Evening program, recreation

The superlatives at camp this year were as follows:

Most Outstanding	Cecil Simons Naomi Bennett
Cutest	Jimmy Holliday Peggy Manning
Best Dancer	Bill Dupree Jeanne Cale

V. Project Activities and Results

13. 4-H Club Work (cont'd)

Best Swimmers	Calvin Briley Ann Ellis
Most Athletic	Roy Keel Maxine Warren
Most Original	Vines Cobb Rosalie Brake
Biggest Flirts	Betty Sue Eason Bobby Stallings
Best Dressed	Arthur Goodwyn Cora Lee Warren
Best Sport	Roy Bass Nancy Williams
Wittiest	Joe Connie Edmondson Jackie Webb
Sweetheart of all Campers	Patry Cummings Selma Herring

In order that each person in the camp might have something as a remembrance of the camp, the boys and girls published a camp paper called "Camp Hi-Lights". This paper was written and edited by the boys and girls themselves and carried news of interest to the campers. Everyone had a chance to contribute something to the paper.

Fair Activities

There was only one fair held this year in which 4-H Club members participated. The Rocky Mount Fair was not held. The Tarboro Fair was held September 26 - October 1.

The Rocky Mount Fat Stock Show was held April 4-5 at Smith and Works Warehouse in Rocky Mount. Edgecombe 4-H members had eight calves at the show. All the calves graded choice. The initial weight of the animals was 3811 pounds and cost \$510.68. The feed cost was \$543.41 and \$41.00 for additional expense. The final weight of the animals was 6665 pounds and sold for \$1602.16 plus \$37.18 premium and award money. The calves gained 2854 pounds and a total profit of \$547.25 was made on the calves, including total money won on premiums and awards.

The show and sale were a success this year more so than ever. The calves from the county brought from 22¢ to 25 cents per pound. Several local merchants were prepared to uphold prices of the animals should they drop. As it happened they had no need to buy a calf. Their interest was appreciated by the boys and girls.

V. Project Activities and Results

13. 4-H Club Work (cont'd)

A group of interested business men and civic leaders of Tarboro and surrounding communities formed a new organization known as the Edgewood 4-H Development Association. The object and purpose of this organization are to promote interest in 4-H Club work in Edgewood County and to encourage participation in 4-H Club projects as sponsored by the Agents. This organization will also furnish funds to purchase any livestock, fowl, fruit tree stock, seed, etc., for any project approved by the agents. It will also purchase any of these projects from the club members at a fair and reasonable price so the club members may always be assured of getting a good price for their project.

A cooperative fruit tree order was placed by the 4-H Club members. In the 1944-45 season they ordered a total of 871 fruit trees, strawberry and blueberry plants. Fruit trees have gone up considerably in prices this year. The 4-H Club members acted as agents in taking orders from their parents and neighbors.

There is a 4-H Pig Chain for the 4-H Club boys. The purpose of this is to increase and improve the quality of the swine in the county. A boy is given a purebred gilt and when she farrows he gives two gilts back to be distributed to two other 4-H Club members. After a boy gives two pigs he has no other liability and can keep his hog as long as he wishes.

Neighborhood leaders have been selected by the 4-H Club members. At present there are 101 of these. They have responded to the Agents call in all cases. They have held 4-H Club meetings during the summer and launched the club members on their war bond selling campaigns.

The Edgewood County Farm Bureau recognized the 4-H Clubs in the county and offered their services and help. They donated \$100 to the club with \$50 to be used as transportation to camp and \$50 as prizes to the outstanding boy and girl in 4-H Club work in the county. Efforts were made by the Agents to send the two outstanding club members to Chicago to attend the 23rd National 4-H Congress. The Farm Bureau donated an additional \$125 and the banks of the county donated \$100. These banks were the Edgewood Bank & Trust Co., Tarboro, Security National Bank, Tarboro, Pinetops Banking Co., Pinetops, and Merchants & Farmers Bank, Macesfield. In addition, Clark Warehouses donated \$25. Along with the club members the Assistant Farm Agent also went to Chicago. This was a very inspirational trip and was enjoyed by all. The real meaning and scope of 4-H Club work was brought to mind at that meeting.

Achievement Day Program

The Edgewood County 4-H Club members held their Achievement Day Program in Tarboro, October 3, 1945. The program started by a parade of 800 4-H Club members down Main Street and were led by the Rocky Mount High School Band. After the parade the club members went to the

V. Project Activities and Results

13. 4-H Club Work (cont'd)

Bryan-Johnson Ball Park where the following Achievement awards were made:

Outstanding Boy		
4-H Member	Bobby Stallings	South Edgewcombe
Outstanding Girl		
4-H Member	Rosalie Brake	Leggett

The climax of the program was the crowning of Carson Webb, Leggett Club, King of Health and Ruby Morris, Speed Club, Queen of Health. R. L. Harrell, Jr., Crisp Club, and Ann Draughon, Leggett Club, were crowned Junior King and Queen of Health.

The civic clubs of Tarboro, the Town of Tarboro, Merchants Association and Chamber of Commerce of Tarboro were host to all these club members. The afternoon program featured brief talks by Miss Ruth Current, State Home Demonstration Agent, Mr. L. R. Harrill, State 4-H Club Leader, and Mr. F. H. Jeter, Extension Editor. Games, stunts and contests were sponsored by the civic clubs and Merchants Association. A Brunswick stew supper was served to all present at 6:00 o'clock, after which community sing was held. A dance was held that night in the High School Gymnasium. Everyone had a good time. This was the biggest and most successful 4-H Achievement Day ever held in Tarboro.

A special program was given before civic clubs of Tarboro, Pinetops and Rocky Mount. There was a total of eight programs given to these besides, two PTA meetings and one Farm Bureau meeting. Ten 4-H Club members and the two Assistant Agents participated. This program did much to help publicize 4-H work and its ideals.

4-H Church Sundays were held in May and June this year and a total of 14 were held. Club members usually took charge of the services and did all but deliver the sermon. At some churches a special candle-light service was given in lieu of the sermon. More participation in such church work is planned for next year.

A 4-H trust fund was set up by anonymous individual of Tarboro during the past year. This fund is in the form of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph stock from which the club members will get \$24 quarterly. This money is to be used as the 4-H County Council officers see fit. The agents feel that this will do much towards helping 4-H Club work in the county.

14. Labor Program

The labor situation at the beginning of 1945 was quite critical from a farm stand point. Registrants with farm classification were being re-screened by the Local Selective Service Boards. Farm workers were still drifting to centers of war industries. Very few of those being discharged from the Army were coming back to the farms. The result of this was that each farmer took on a little more crop in an effort to tend his tobacco allotment and keep his farm from lying out.

V. Project Activities and Results

14. Labor Program

At the beginning of the year the Agents had the responsibility of assisting the War Board in obtaining information for the Selective Service Boards relative to registrant's farming operations. As requirements for deferment tightened, all farm boys were required to submit new evidence as to why they should be deferred. Each farm boy that was drafted left an unfilled vacancy on the farm he left. The War Board met weekly to consider these cases during the first part of the year. After VE day, meetings were called only each two weeks and after VJ day they were discontinued.

The acute labor situation on the farms was intensified by weather conditions. Continual rains in the growing season, June and July, made less work days and created more work from the grass stand point. Tobacco harvesting loomed ahead as a gigantic task almost impossible for the old men and boys left on the farms. Town hands were relatively scarce and hard to get. To alleviate this situation contracts were made with Bahamian workers for tobacco priming. Edgecombe was allotted 52 of these. This was only a drop in the bucket in filling the labor needs, but it had its effect in lessening competition for local labor. Farmers were somewhat dubious as to this labor. Applications were received from 14 farmers and the contracts were signed on May 31. Two additional farmers came in to sign after representatives of the State Office and W.F.A. had left with the contracts. The wage boards in each of the counties involved held hearings to determine the prevailing wage for priming tobacco in their counties. These in turn were sent to Raleigh where the Director of Extension established a uniform wage set for the Bahamians throughout the tobacco belt. The figures established were 40¢ per hour for the women and 50¢ per hour for men. The farmers signing the contracts agreed to furnish a house, table, chairs and cooking utensils. A deposit of \$12.00 for each Bahamian was required for blankets, cots and cook stove. The Health Department passed on living quarters, water supply, etc.

The following farmers contracted for the Bahamians: J. B. Briley, W. L. Doughtie, and T. J. Taylor, 6; J. F. Mason, Jr., 4; Lee Bridgers, 2; James R. Pitt, 4; J. T. Robbins, 6; Lealie Calhoun, 4; Gus. Z. Lancaster, 8; J. E. Burgess, 8; Arthur Fountain, 6; and G. T. Bottoms, 2. The contracts called for the Bahamians to arrive here on June 30th and leave on August 4th. Due to heavy troop movements and the Army's No. 1 priority on travel, the first Bahamians did not arrive until July 4th and the balance came in over a period of ten days. These workers proved to be quite satisfactory except in one instance. They were responsible for saving quite a bit of tobacco that would otherwise have been lost. As previously stated, their biggest contribution was in taking some of the pressure off local labor.

The Wage Rate Committee for 1945 consisted of J. C. Powell, Chairman, J. T. Lawrence, John Mayo, H. G. Shelton, and Henry A. Braswell. Two meetings were held by this committee during the year, one to determine the prevailing wage rate for harvesting tobacco, the other for digging peanuts in connection with the use of P.O.W. labor. No Labor Assistant was employed to assist with the Bahamians.

V. Project Activities and Results

14. Labor Program (cont'd)

Response of city workers for both tobacco work and cotton picking was better this year than last. Practically no cooks or servants were left in town during the peak cotton picking period. Wages for this were unusually high, beginning at \$2.00 per cwt. and winding up at \$3.00.

Perhaps the greatest drawback to obtaining town labor was the "soldiers allotment" being received by families ordinarily doing farm work in the fall. Request for closing schools was not made this year but movies depicting the help that town people could give at times like this were shown twice at each theatre as an educational feature. The film was furnished by the USDA and resulted in a number of registrations for farm work by the boys and girls in town.

The labor situation again made it necessary to apply for P.O.W.s to help with peanut harvesting. The demand was much greater than before for this type of help. This truly reflected the dire labor situation as the P.O.W. work in the fall of 1944 was not at all satisfactory in a number of instances. A temporary camp was established at Scotland Neck from which Edgecombe was assigned 150 prisoners and 20 were obtained from the permanent camp at Williamston. Over 100 applications were received from peanut farmers requesting the use of the prisoners for stacking peanuts. John J. Bailey, a returned war veteran, was employed as Labor Assistant to handle the applications and check on allocations, bookings, etc. The contract for the P.O.W.s was handled by the Edgecombe Farm Bureau and covered all of the prisoners allotted to Edgecombe. Farmers applying for the prisoners put up a deposit of \$3.00 per prisoner per day for the period requested. Allocations were made by a committee consisting of H. G. Shelton, J. T. Lawrence, Sr., John Mayo and W. R. Powell. The acreage of peanuts per available man on the farm was the priority system used in making the allocations. Eighty-eight farmers actually used this labor for digging peanuts. The task this year was raised from 18 to 25 stacks. Digging conditions were not near as good as last year. The cost per stack was 12¢ and 76,182 stacks were put up by P.O.W. labor. This was an average of 20.4 stacks per day per man. Farmers commenting on the P.O.W. labor stated that it was much more satisfactory than last year and that it played an important part in getting their peanuts dug. Prisoners were first used on the 17th of September and work of this nature was terminated on October 20th.

Even though quite a few farm boys were getting out of the Army by the end of the peanut digging season, many farmers did not have sufficient labor to operate their peanut pickers. Requests were made that the camp at Scotland Neck be continued over to furnish help for threshing, harvesting corn, and other essential farm work. Army officials agreed to keep one-half of the prisoners there until November 10. This reduced Edgecombe's allotment to 75. Allocations of these were handled by the same committee on the basis of five P.O.W.s to each applicant, with public pickers having first priority and private pickers and corn harvesting following in that order. Thirty-three applications were

V. Project Activities and Results

14. Labor Program (cont'd)

received, but allocations were only made to 20 farmers.

The cost of this use of the prisoners to the farmer was figured at 30¢ per hour per P.O.W., the working day to be approximately 10 hours. The average work day was found to run about 8 hours so that the daily cost per prisoner was \$2.40. The employer kept a record of the time made by each prisoner he used.

The work to be done around a peanut picker was something new for the P.O.W.s but they caught on and learned quite readily the various tasks that are performed during the threshing operations. Farmers were highly pleased with the results of the this labor. In pulling corn the prisoners seemed to be right at home for they did an excellent job.

The labor outlook for 1946 is much brighter than for the past several years. Present indications are that a considerable number of the boys getting out of the armed services are planning to return to farming. The attitude of the labor on the farm also seems to be better.

Both Mr. Sloan and Mr. Crawford have done a "bang up" job in assisting us with our labor problems during the past year. Their cooperation has been all that we could ask for in helping with both local and outside labor and in anticipating our needs.

15. Neighborhood Leaders Program

A system of neighborhoods have been established over the county whereby certain leaders agreed to contact the families within their neighborhood in reference to various programs and campaigns of benefit to the community. The county is divided into 58 individual neighborhoods. These in turn are grouped into eleven communities. This proved an effective method of reaching farm families on short notice when the need arose. The leaders selected in each of these neighborhoods have been most cooperative in carrying out the various programs assigned to them. Both men and women serve as leaders and at present there are 137 women and 192 men serving in this capacity.

The chief programs carried out through the neighborhood leader system this year were the Food Production Campaign and the War Bond Campaigns. An active part was played by the leaders in the 7th and Victory Loan Drives. In the 7th drive, which came at a bad time for farmers in May and June, rural Edgecombe was given a quota of \$148,000 in B bonds and raised over \$140,081. In the Victory Loan Drive the quota was \$119,000 and \$156,000 was raised. Edgecombe holds the district record of having reached all of its bond quotas in both this war and World War I.

16. War Work and Related Programs

War work and programs in connection with the war effort have demanded much of the Agents time during the past year. In addition to the

V. Project Activities and Results

16. War Work and Related Programs (cont'd)

campaigns relative to the war effort already described under Neighborhood Leaders, the Agent has served as Secretary to the USDA War Board, assisted the AAA rationing committees and cooperated with other local boards and agencies.

The War Board is the principal of these and was composed of H. G. Shelton of the A.C.A. as Chairman, the County Agent as Secretary, J. C. Eubanks of the F.S.A., E. B. Bailey of the Soil Conservation Service, J. G. Vick of the Rocky Mount P.C.A., J. D. Wordsworth of the Seed Loan, W. J. Mayo of the R.E.A., and H. N. Cherry, Vocational Teacher. This board met each Tuesday in the County Office Building. The main functions of the board were to furnish the Selective Service with information needed in reclassifying farm boys, make recommendations as to deferment and to pass on applications for farm releases. Their duties ceased on V-J day and no more regular meetings were held.

In addition to this, the Agent served as Chairman of the War Finance Committee for the Victory Loan Drive. The Assistant Agent served as Agricultural Chairman in both the 7th and Victory Loan Drives. The Agent also served as President of the local Rotary Club. This made it possible to push agricultural and related programs with the backing of this organization. It has also made it possible to present agricultural problems and activities to the leading business men in Tarboro.

17. Other Agencies

The Triple A Office Force as well as the Triple A Committeemen have been extremely cooperative with the Extension Agents. They have sought the advice of the agents and followed their suggestions in administering the program. The success of the program in this county has been due largely to the effort they put forth and the untiring ability which they have shown in conducting the affairs of the association, along with the fine cooperative spirit shown in all matters dealing with the farmers welfare.

The Agent has served as an ex officio member of the County Committee and has attended the majority of the County Committee meetings. The committee was composed of H. G. Shelton, Chairman, J. H. Little, Vice-Chairman and G. E. Geff. This committee was able and showed excellent judgement in its decisions. The Agents assisted them with educational campaigns, particularly in regard to soil-building practices, establishment of pastures, the use of lime, etc. The Agents also assisted the committee in their lumber rationing, truck gas rationing, by furnishing them information about the farming operations of various farmers.

Edgecombe is included in the Soil Conservation District embracing Pitt, Martin, Greene and Edgecombe counties. R. B. Bailey is the Work Unit Conservationist for this county. He and the Agent have cooperated in conducting meetings that were of material interest to both. At the majority of these meetings some phase of the soil conservation work was discussed. The farmers were advised by the Agent to take advantage of this opportunity and sign up their farms as cooperating units. The response has been good as Mr. Bailey has

V. Project Activities and Results

17. Other Agencies (cont'd)

more applications ahead than he will be able to take care of in the next several months. Mr. Bailey is quite cooperative. He and the Agents work together on certain field problems such as drainages, particularly on tile, and also on terracing, contour tillage, permanent pastures, etc.

VI. Outlook and Recommendations

The cessation of the war, labor situation in 1945 and the decrease in demand for production have had a psychological effect on the farmer. He no longer feels that he is under obligation to plant every acre possible in a war crop, he no longer has to make units to keep some farm worker out of the Army. Many farmers are taking the attitude that they will only plant those crops for which they have sufficient labor on the farm to cultivate and harvest as it should be. They prefer to let land lie idle rather than overcrop the tenants they have on the farm and let the grass eat them up like they did this year. This attitude on the part of the farmers should have a good effect on farm labor and create a feeling of willingness to work. Returning war workers and returning service men will definitely affect the labor situation in 1946. There is a tendency among returning service men to take up other work than farming, but a good number are drifting back to their father's farms or back into the neighborhood in which they were raised. Though the prospects are for more labor, labor will not be cheap and the indications are that it will be even higher than last year.

Production goals for 1946 have not as yet been announced. The present attitude of the farmers indicates that there will be a slight upward trend in the production of cotton in '46. The acreage and production of cotton reached a new low this year. There will be, apparently, a downward trend in the acreage of peanuts. The very poor yield this year coupled with the fact that the average farmer planted more peanuts than he could properly tend this year are the two main reasons why there will be a shift downward next year. Tobacco is still the No. 1 crop from a cash return stand point and will get first call on the available labor. More emphasis will be placed on quality rather than on the production of pounds in 1946. The trend is toward an increase in soybeans for beans due to better yields this year. The corn acreage will probably be decreased, with more emphasis on increased yields per acre. This year's tests have shown remarkable possibilities along this line. Interest has waned somewhat on beef cattle and sheep due principally to incompetent help. With the good corn crop this year we can expect a material increase in hogs for market next year. Very few hogs were grown out to market weights during the past six months as the feeder market (or black market) made it much more profitable to sell as feeders or breeders. Shoats weighing 85 to 110 pounds at one time were selling from 25 to 30 cents per pound. One sow with eight pigs sold for \$140.00. Small pigs were unusually high too. This condition completely disrupted the fat hog market where ceilings of \$14.55 per cwt. applied. Indications are that laying flocks will also be decreased in 1946.

The present outlook is that there will be a definite trend toward mechanization where mechanical equipment is again available. Even though

VI. Outlook and Recommendations (cont'd)

the labor outlook is better, labor costs are still high and the trend is still upward. Other costs of production are also continuing to rise. This is going to reduce the farmer's net income in 1946 even if prices remain stable.

The most practical way for farmers to maintain their present income is to reduce costs. This can be done by increasing the yields per acre, thus reducing the cost per unit of products produced. The corn production demonstrations and the cotton five-acre contest both have shown that this is practical. The Agents feel that their time can best be devoted to this end in 1946 and are incorporating the principles of increased yields in their long time program. Methods of accomplishing this are outlined in the plan of work. A continuation of the corn production demonstrations, creating more interest in the cotton five-acre contest, calling attention to the value of good stands, heavier fertilization and earlier seeding will be of value in increasing yields and maintaining the present living standard of our farmers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. Powell
County Agent

W. C. Scott
Assistant County Agent