1935

1935 Extension Service Annual Report

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service

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I. The Clemson Extension Service has completed one of the heaviest year's work in the history of the organization. Experience gained in 1933 and 1934, together with the fact that they had the assistance of more experienced clerical workers and committeemen, enabled county agents, specialists, and supervisors to carry the heavy burden of the AAA programs and other emergency work with less interference to the basic extension educational program than heretofore. The year 1935 has been marked by greater accomplishments along educational demonstration lines than had been possible since 1932, and it is safe to say that along these lines it was the most fruitful year's work since the beginning of the depression.

Additional Federal funds made available by the passage of the Bankhead-Jones law have made it possible to add several much needed specialists to the service to fill positions left vacant on account of the shortage of funds during the depression, and, also, to restore home demonstration agents from a ten-month's to a twelve-month's basis of employment. In addition, a number of assistant county agents and home demonstration agents have
been placed in the larger counties of the state where the burden of work is heaviest, their duties including also work in adjoining and nearby counties both on regular schedule, and when needed to meet emergencies.

With the addition of this personnel, which has been carefully selected from the standpoint of personality, training and experience, the service is now in much better position to carry out a well-rounded program of work with the farmers of the state.

Accomplishments

Agricultural Adjustment Work: The AAA programs for 1935 were carried through in a very satisfactory manner. A total of 98,023 cotton acreage reduction contracts were handled for farmers, on which benefit payments amounted to around eight millions of dollars. A total of 16,246 tobacco contracts, 1799 corn-hog contracts, and 463 peanut contracts were handled and compliance established. In addition county agents received 109,570 Bankhead applications for cotton ginning certificates, and 18,118 applications for Smith-Kerr tobacco certificates were handled for farmers.

Educational Demonstration Work: During 1935 county and home agents conducted organized extension work in 1300 South Carolina communities, with the cooperation of 2,588 voluntary community leaders. In conducting this work these agents made 58,466 farm and home visits, wrote 170,363 personal letters, and held 11,179 meetings, which were attended by 355,856 people. A total of 902
organized clubs of adults with a membership of 17,311 people assisted in the program. A total of 744,800 farm people called at the agents' headquarters for advice and assistance, and 196,800 called by telephone.

A total of 902 4-H clubs of farm boys and girls were organized, with a total membership of 17,311. Six thousand eight hundred and forty-one 4-H club boys conducted 11,416 demonstrations of better methods of growing crops and livestock. The total value of their products amounted to $136,124.93, and their profit was $68,179.54.

Home demonstration agents taught 2,635 women and 4,565 4-H girls better methods of making and caring for clothing, assisted 24,974 farm women in improving the diet of their children, and helped 15,000 farm women can and preserve 3,351,330 quarts of fruits, vegetables and meats to the value of over a half-million dollars.

County agents conducted 4,177 demonstrations in improved methods of crop production, and 2,032 demonstrations of approved methods of livestock production and feeding.

The most important work with farm crops was the five-acre cotton improvement demonstration, in which 636 farmers participated. This demonstration has been conducted for eight years, and has resulted in South Carolina's taking the lead among all
the cotton states in the production of quality staple of the length
used by our mills. In 1929 only 36.7% of the cotton produced in
the state had a staple of 15/16 inch or longer, while in 1935 the
percentage of this length was 81.4% as compared to 69.7% for North
Carolina, 48.6% for Georgia, 13.5% for Alabama, and 58.9% for the
United States as a whole.

Home orchard demonstrations showed that with proper care the
average value of fruit was $125.08, at an average cost of $37.35,
leaving a profit of $87.73 per orchard. Sweet potato demonstra-
tions showed that with modern improved varieties and methods, this
crop could be produced at a cost as low as 16 cents per bushel.

In livestock work 64 selected purebred beef bulls were placed
with farmers of the state, 56 purebred boars were placed, and 16
hog-feeding demonstrations were conducted, in which the hogs made
an average daily gain of 1\frac{1}{2} pounds in weight and paid back $1.45
per bushel net for all the corn they were fed. A total of 11,352
demonstration-fed hogs were marketed in cooperative carlot ship-
ments for a total of $172,731.00.

A total of 20,165 farmers were assisted in the control of
crop insects and 10,391 in the control of crop diseases. Demon-
strations in beekeeping showed an average profit of $5.57 per hive.

Seventy-eight 4-H dairy calf club boys and girls averaged a
profit of $77.70 per member. Sixty-seven purebred cows and heifers
and 85 purebred dairy bulls were placed with farmers and dairymen. A total of 176 purebred cows and heifers were sold for farmers for $22,023.

Poultry demonstrations with 64 farmers showed an average profit of $1.44 per hen, over and above all costs.

The extension service has continued to assist farmers with their marketing problems, and in 1935 assisted in the marketing of farm products to the value of $4,665,037.00.

In the county terracing program conducted in cooperation with the Resettlement Administration, the extension service supervised the terracing of 18,844 acres of land in 20 Piedmont counties.

2. The extension workers have carried out the 1935 program of educational work and emergency activities in a remarkably efficient manner. Special mention should be made of the untiring loyal service given by the county agents who are out on the firing line, and who have handled the multitude of problems directly with the farmers of the state in a manner which has commanded the admiration and respect of all who came in contact with them.

3. The pressing needs of the service are listed as follows:

A. A system whereby county agents and other extension workers could be brought together more often for instruction in order that they might be kept up-to-date with the constantly changing agricultural and economic situation.
B. The enlargement and improvement of facilities at Clemson College for the teaching of certain basic agricultural sciences, e.g. agricultural engineering, agricultural economics and rural sociology, forestry, and others, and the arrangement of courses in the agricultural curriculum in order that students wishing to enter extension work or other educational agricultural work may be thoroughly trained in these basic and necessary sciences.