

NARRATIVE
ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNTY AGENT

YAVAPAI COUNTY ARIZONA.

by
Geo. W. Scheerer.

1919

NARRATIVE REPORT.

ORGANIZATION

On May 1st. of this year when the County Agricultural Agent started his work in the County there was not a single farmers organization in existence, nor had the farmers in the past made any pretence of cooperating or working together.

The Agent realizing that much more work could be accomplished and a greater number of farmers reached through organization, started an agitation for the farmers to organize in the several communities. This was done by calling the farmers together at meetings and explaining to them how work was being accomplished over the country where farmers had organized and County Agents were cooperating with them. No definite plans were made as to what lines of work would be taken up or what the communities wanted to work together to solve. With but one exception the farmers did not organize and since then the Agent has been working with individuals and small committees in the several communities.

In the one exception where the farmers did organize it was a small thickley settled community and a community problem was staring them in the face before the plan for organization was presented. The problem "that of spraying potatoes for the Colorado Potato Beetle" served to get the farmers to work and an organization was formed. They purchased a power spray machine and under the direction of Assistant State Entomologist Dr. Bartlett sprayed over 200 acres of potatoes. By this work they increased their yield about 10 bushels to the acre which meant a saving to the community of over 3000 dollars.

Since the organization was effected they have held a community fair, passed resolutions to raise pure bred Duroc-Jersey hogs, and are working together on all community problems that arise.

In the other communities where the Agent has found it necessary to work with individuals and small committees the sentiment is changing so that the farmers are beginning to see the necessity of working together and an organization. It is thought by the Agent that this year he will be able to organize a County Farm Bureau working from the bottom up as he has started.

PROGRAM OF WORK

It was not possible to form a definite program of work when the Agent started so that he simply got out and met the farmers helping them in every way possible to gain their confidence and learn what was the problems of most consequence in the different communities. Shortly after he started work the demand for information on silos prompted him to start a silo campaign along with his efforts to organize the farmers as above stated and these two projects have been his main lines of work through the year.

MAJOR PROJECTS.

1. Organization of a County Farm Bureau. This is still the big problem of the County. Although the Agent did not get a County wide organization started this year he has got the farmers working together and thinking of community problems. One community is organized and will be the means to get others to do likewise as they are demonstrating by their organization that to work together means better farming.

2. Silo Project. There is an unnecessary loss of livestock during the winter and spring months in this County, the principal cause being that of starvation. Much dry-farmings is carried on in the County and the dry-farm crops made into ensilage and fed to stock have brought larger returns than where they were put directly on the market. Further there is a great need for better and cheaper dairy feeds and the silo seems to be the solution. This project has been divided into three parts, silo building, ensilage crops and the feeding of ensilage. Nine silos were built this season which the Agent feels was doing very well as it was practically impossible to get contractors to do the work and the farmers being very busy would not tackle the job themselves.

Considerable data has been collected on the growing of ensilage crops and the Agent is now getting men to cooperate on keeping data on the feeding of ensilage. The project will be continued the coming year and it should lead to more and better feed for the stockmen of the County. So far every man that has feed ensilage in the County is a booster for the silos use.

MINOR PROJECTS

1. Orchard Work. The future for this County along the lines of fruit looks very promising. At the present time there are between forty and fifty orchards of varying size from five to fifty acres. The quality of the fruit is excellent but in general the orchards are in a rundown condition and there is a wide variety of pests that must be combated to make orcharding a success. Assistant State Entomologist Dr O. C. Bartlett and the agent has visited the larger part of the orchards and working with the individual farmers have found and given assistance in controlling the following pests, codling moth, peach borer, pear blight, san jose scale, mildew, woolly aphid, crown gall, and root rot. Methods of pruning, cultivation and irrigation of orchards have also been discussed with the owners.

While gathering fair exhibits with the County Fair Commissioner who is one of the best orchard men in the county many orchards were visited and individuals were shown how to make standard packs of apples, methods of thinning and the result of thinning were discussed with the orchardmen.

The coming year more work will be done along the lines of orcharding as the farmers are demanding information on how to better care for their orchards.

2. Livestock Squad. The Livestock Squad was a party of specialists from the University of Arizona who traveled by auto over the State giving demonstrations and lectures in the field. In this county the Agent arranged their schedule and piloted the party. While in the County they visited many of the prominent range men, gave demonstrations in vaccinating for blackleg, burning carcasses, and handed out formulas for killing screw worms and ear ticks. There were two night meetings held in the county with an attendance of two hundred sixty. At these meetings talks were given on range grazing, vaccination for blackleg, animal parasites, selecting better sires and range management.

The Agent talking with a number of stockmen later was pleased to get their feeling that the Squad was doing a good work and that it came nearer reaching the men that it should than anything that had ever been tried in the State previous to bring scientific data and help to the stockmen.

3.

3. County and State Fairs. The Agent assisted the County Fair Commissioner in collecting and exhibiting the agricultural produce at both the Northern Arizona, and Arizona State Fairs. One community was also encouraged to attempt a community fair which proved a great success as it gave the farmers a knowledge of how to select and prepare their produce for fair exhibits. The judge who was secured by the Agent called the farmers attention to the good and bad points of each class of articles as they were brought to the judges table.

While traveling over the County collecting fair exhibits much valuable assistance was given farmers along the lines of how to grade and pack fruit, what was a good commercial size, and what the public demands among the different varieties of produce.

The Northern Arizona State Fair was a good success and at the State Fair at Phoenix Yavapai County took first for the largest and most comprehensive county exhibit and a total of 191 ribbons for the individual exhibitors.

4. Rodent Control Work. In the rodent control work the Agent cooperated with Biological Survey men in every way possible, which has been by getting the cooperation of the farmers, making reports of lands where rodents were numerous and assisting to give out poison to the farmers.

Since the 1st. of March 191,577 acres of land have been treated; 31,626 quarts of poison distributed; and over 300 farmers have cooperated in the work.

MISCELLANEOUS AND SPECIAL WORK

1. Cultivation of Crops. Twenty three farmers were assisted in caring for their crops by the Agent advising them on the best methods of cultivation. Much dry-farming is practiced in the county and the Prescott Dry Farm experiment station has rendered a great service to the farmers in determining the best methods in planting and caring for crops. These facts that have been demonstrated to be the best are carried to the farmers by the Agent. Several farmers were persuaded to use the flat method of planting in preference to the lister as the lister has never produced as good stands as the flat method.

One of the great problems is to get the farmers to cultivate enough. However this year more cultivation was practised. One man who owns an orchard went over the entire orchard six times with a spike tooth harrow with the result of a better yield than ever before. In the irrigated districts the Agents slogan has been, "Use less water and do more cultivating" and "larger

yields are resulting.

White clover and alfalfa were tried out in the county this year as they looked like promising crops. To date the Agent has not been able to get the data on the production but the crops were visited during the growing period and looked very good.

The Agent gave sixteen farmers assistance in caring for truck crops that had been attacked by cabbage lice, corn ear worm, lady bean bird, squash bugs, and potato beetles. In addition to this 200 acres of potatoes were sprayed in one community as explained under the heading Organization.

2. Pumps and Machinery. Two men were assisted in obtaining pump machinery. Two were assisted in fixing pumps that were broken. One was assisted in getting a tractor. Three have been assisted in getting silo machinery and in one case where a farmer was located fifty miles from town and had never saw any ensilage machinery set up, the agent spent four days in setting up a Smalley Alfalfa cutter No 20 and using a Fordson tractor as power started the filling of two silos. Several farmers were present to see the machinery run and many questions were asked the Agent about feeding ensilage as those present had never seen a silo in use before that time.

3. Livestock work in the County has been furthered by the Agent in getting men to vaccinate for blackleg; supplying formulas for killing screw worms, and ear ticks; helping men to construct dipping vats and various other incidentals to help in the care of live stock.

4. United Verde Extension Gardens. The garden tract was selected April 25, 1912. Preparation of the soil and ditching was begun on the 28th. of April. The tract contained 7 1/2 acres this was divided into 50 gardens 50 x 70 feet. The United Verde Extension Mining Co. furnished the ground, plowed it, ditched it, and made head gates for each garden. They also furnished the tools at cost to the users at wholesale price. The whole project cost the company \$1500 while there was approximately \$2000.00 of vegetables and produce took off the gardens. The gardens were thought such a success that the company will enlarge the project next year. Mr. J. B. Huser was the garden superintendent and cooperated with the County Agricultural Agent.

5. Womens Work. Miss Grace I Tufts spent three months in the county as home demonstration agent. She gave 11 canning demonstrations over the county and organized a girls canning club in Little Chino Valley.

SUMMARY

In summing up the work of this year or the past nine months, which is the first of its kind to be done in the County, it is plain that a foundation for a greater work has been laid. Although there is but one small community that is really organized and working along the lines of organization, the Agent has by his work started people in practically every other community to thinking of what organized effort means, and how their community might be benefited by an organization. The work that is being carried on in these communities at present is only simple problems but the farmers are learning to work together and in the future will be able to handle larger problems.

The County is very mountainous, its communities are remote from one another, and the types of agriculture practiced are of a wide variation, all of which tend to make it difficult for the Agent to find common county problems and follow the plans of organization of a County Farm Bureau. But even with these conditions existing the future for the work looks very promising.

It is the Agents plan to continue thru the spring and summer working with small committees and individuals in the several communities and get such demonstrations going as the feeding of ensilage, spraying and pruning of fruit trees, the planting of certified seed, etc. All the time keeping in mind to get all possible in each community working together and along the same lines. Then when the people are working and interested a campaign for a County Farm Bureau will be put thru. Such an organization will survive and continue work if handled properly, but before the organization the people must learn the value of the work and how to work together.



Goat Barbecue
Given in honor of Liveslock Squad.
Minor Project #2



First Power Spray
Used for Colorado Potato Beetle.
Organization #3.



Dry Farm.
Center of picture Elev 6000ft.



County Agent
Scheerer.



Side view



end view.

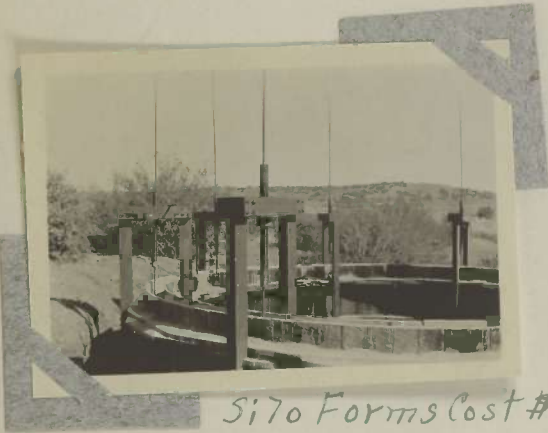
Trap to Catch Wild Cattle.



Cement cover
over underground
Cistern.



Two Pit Silos.
Gin pole serves to hoist
ensilage from either with team.



Silo Forms Cost \$900.
Wrong principal. Steel jack screws
would not raise forms.



Fitting & Building
Silo at same time.



The Agent set up
machinery and showed them
how to cut ensilage



Half-Pit-Half Stone
Silos. Stones cleared off land.