

NARRATIVE REPORT (ANNUAL)
County Agent, WILLIAM WATSON PICKRELL, County Agricultural Agent, for Pima and Santa Cruz Counties.

ORGAN-
IZATION

The agent found when he started work in these counties that he had a county farm bureau on paper and a fairly well organized group of locals but they had been dormant for so long a time that they had to be worked on before they could be used to put anything over. By working with the County President, Mr. Ben A. Johnson, the various organizations were used. When an issue came up committee men in each vicinity could be found that would aid the agent in his work. The main project that was put over by the Farm Bureau was the Municipal Market in Tucson. This was a difficult task but would have been much harder if the agent had not had the local farm bureau organizations to fall back on to hold meetings in each district. He was also able to obtain committeemen to go around with him to stir up the various farmers and give them the much needed imagination they needed to make the first markets a success.

The president of the County Farm Bureau formed the Cotton Growers' Association whereby the members were able to get supplies such as pickers sacks more reasonably than they could have individually. Still more important was the obtaining of labor to pick the cotton for three cents a pound, which is more than can be said of any other district in the state.

The agent was able to have a poultry specialist go around and give culling demonstrations to the various locals without his aid, as the local committeemen took care of the work.

Santa Cruz County was not well adapted to a county organization due to the difference in type and class of agriculture carried on by the natives of that county. This being the case the agent thought that the work could be carried on as well by having each district a separate unit.

CROPS:

The agent started work too late to do much work on the encouraging of any crops but summer crops. Much attention was paid to the two crops, alfalfa and cotton, in seeing that the farmers used the proper methods of culture. It was found that many of the irrigation systems for alfalfa were not planned right and needed remodeling before they could be of any use to the farmers. The general tendency was to run the water down too great a slope, the result being that a lawn variety of alfalfa was developed rather than a field crop.

The agent felt best over his results in cotton when the growers would go so far as to call him up and have him come out to their fields to determine the time for the proper irrigation of the same. It gave him the feeling that he was a very important item in the growing of cotton crops. The agent spent some time in the cotton fields working on root rot and insect pests, the former was and still is, a large item in the cotton industry of Pima County and needs a good deal of attention.

The agent started but did not have the time to finish the work of seed corn selection which is needed very much in both counties. It was a hard proposition to get enough ears of uniform shapes together to make a really creditable showing at any of the fairs.

the agent gathered exhibits for. The need of uniformity also holds true with the maize and sorghums.

LIVESTOCK: The agent did work with the Livestock breeders in general most of the time when taking trips thru his territory, but the two organized campaigns were with the Livestock Squad, and the Santa Cruz County Fair. These times the agent was able to get in touch with the cattlemen especially the wilder variety that come out of the canyons at these times to listen to the facts in the one instance, and see the facts in the other occasion. The spirit that was shown to both the Livestock Squad and the Range Livestock Course by the cattlemen of both Pima and Santa Cruz counties demonstrated very clearly the work that the Extension Service is doing. Anyone that would doubt this would only have to compare the same treatment that they would probably have gotten a couple of years before from the same neighborhoods.

The agent did not have time to attend the round-ups as he would have liked to do, but feels that the two trips that he made, one being with the Livestock Squad, had much the same results.

The agent spent some time in organizing one community and talking to them on the value of dairy for their neighborhood, as they had the two things that would make dairying a success, that would not be beneficial to all other forms of farming. These two resources were labor in the form of their large families, and the other Johnson Grass. These communities purchased several carloads of milk cows in the Salt River Valley. They did not want to pay for the best grade of cows, so the agent did not feel that he wanted to fasten his name to second rate cattle being brought in so kept out of the purchasing transaction.

The hog industry was of little importance, but the agent was able to get two farmers to purchase some pure-bred sows and breed them to the University pure-bred boar for the purpose of getting some better sires for the community.

The agent did not work with goat raisers, as there are not enough to warrant spending the time. The two counties in the agent's territory did not have one sheep, so he was not troubled any with them.

SOILS: The principal work that the agent did in this type of work, was planning irrigation systems for the various new lands that were being put under cultivation. More failure in the pioneer work on the part of the immigrant from the east was due to not getting water in the soil as the result of poor irrigation systems. The agent had some of the alfalfa growers cross-border their fields in order that they might hold the water in the land so it could percolate into the soil. The agent also was an advocator of cement ditches or pipe lines to carry the water from the wells to the fields.

The agent helped to repair pumping plants, also figure the cost under various conditions with the various kinds of powers. There is much more need for the work of an irrigation Extension worker in Santa Cruz Valley than the agent had time to devote.

FARM
AND
HOME

The Agent at all times tried to make life more pleasant for the farmers and cattlemen. He cooperated three times with the H.D.A. in putting on demonstrations. He did no form of Boys' & Girls' Club work with that department.

Seed was distributed for home gardens and a planting calendar was given to each. In the warm weather the agent helped several housewives plan iceless refrigerators.

W. W. Pickrell
Ex-County Agent
Pima and Santa Cruz Counties