

REPORT OF C.K. WILDERMUTH

COUNTY AGENT

PINAL COUNTY

ARIZONA

from

DECEMBER 1ST 1919

to

MARCH 15TH 1920.

Report of C.M. Wild worth, County Agent Pinal Co.,
From December 1st 1919, to Mar., 15th 1920.

Due to the short time this year that the work has been carried on it is impossible to make a very satisfactory report. None of the work that has been started this year is yet completed, and only on a few projects that were under way last season is the agent able to make a report.

Organization.

At the completion of the work last year organization in this County was just getting under way. In the last three months organizations have been perfected at both Florence and Casa Grande. At Florence meetings are held every two weeks and at these meetings some certain topic some certain topic of special interest at that time has been taken up. In a few cases two evenings have been devoted to one subject, all depending on the demands of the members of the organization as the program is selected by them. These meetings have all been carried on in cooperation with the Smith-Hughes man at the Florence Highschool. He is in such a position that by using the Commercial classes of the Highschool he can send notices of meetings of meetings to every rancher in the community. His duty is to handle the publicity end of the meetings, while the Agent secures the specialists to lead the discussions on the subject that has been selected at the previous meeting. To add a little side interest to the meetings, the Domestic Science class at the Highschool provides refreshments to be served at the close of each meeting. With this combination a good attendance is secured at every meeting, and some lively and interesting discussions have been held.

At Casa Grande most of the enthusiasm has been shown over long staple cotton and most of the energies of the Association have been devoted to that one thing. The chief problem that confronted the Association when first formed, was to secure a gin to handle the crop of cotton that would be grown in the County this season. Other years the crop had to be shipped quite a distance to the gin, and after reaching there it was away from the grower, and it was very hard

to secure a suitable market. Thru the organization of the growers we secured a buyer to handle all the crop on the grounds this past season, and just recently we have signed up a contract whereby the firm that the buyer represents is to build an up to date ten stand roller gin to handle the crop this coming season. As an evidence of good faith that this gin will be constructed a deposit of \$2000.00 has been placed in the local bank to be forfeited in any case the gin is not ready for operation by September 1st 1920. The Association feels that in securing this gin it has done one of the biggest things possible for the advancement of the agricultural interests of the Valley.

Crops.

Up until the present time cotton is practically the only crop with which any work has been done. With this crop over 3300 bushels of pure Pima Egyptian Cottonseed have been ordered, all of which was handled by the Agent. In addition to this quite a large tonnage has been secured from other sources so that it is very probable that from 8000 to 9000 acres of cotton will be planted in the Country this season as compared to 2500 this past season. The Agent has been keeping in very close touch with this work, and the greater part of the land has been prepared under advice and supervision of this office.

Last fall 120 acres of lettuce were planted 12 miles east of Casa Grande. This was planted as rather an experiment to see what could be done with this crop in Pinal County. The results have gone far beyond expectations. The crop has been on the market for the past month, yield is running from 500 to 700 crates per acre, and the last market reports show that Arizona lettuce from Pinal County is commanding a premium of 25¢ per crate over California product. This crop has certainly been a decided success, and no doubt another year will see quite an increase in acreage of this crop.

Horticulture.

Small fruits have recently come into prominence, and quite a number of grape cuttings have been shipped into the County. These have been sent in from California, and our quarantine laws demand that cuttings from there be treated in water from 127 to 131°F from 3 to 5 minutes. A total of 290,000 cuttings of Malaga and Thompson Seedless were treated by the Agent, and will be planted in the County this year.

Livestock.

Considerable interest has been shown recently in livestock in the County. Hog production has reached rather a high mark, and if good prices and a ready market will be secured, no doubt the industry will continue to grow.

Dairy cattle have also come into prominence within the last few months. Several hundred head have been shipped in from Salt River Valley, and indications are that the Dairy industry will soon be one of the prominent industries of this County. For a time marketing of this product was a big drawback, but a milk route has finally been established, and this problem has been solved.

Irrigation.

Large acreages of desert land are being reclaimed in the County, and quite a good many of the newcomers are men not acquainted with irrigation conditions. The Agent has often received calls for assistance in laying out irrigation systems. Several systems have been modified at his advice, and four entire new places have been laid off and made ready for cultivation.

The demands for the assistance of the Extension Service have been increasing every day, and due to the rapid development of this County at present, an Agent can certainly be of unlimited help