

ANNUAL REPORT  
for

Walter F. Gilpin

County Agricultural Agent

Greenlee County

ARIZONA.

December 1, 1923 to May 31, 1924

This report covering the activities of the County Agricultural Agent for the County of Greenlee in the State of Arizona extends over a period of six months, and for this reason the report is very incomplete, as a number of the demonstrations will not have been finished until fall, and even at the date of the Agent's resignation only a few demonstrations were complete, these being such demonstrations as the selection of breeding flocks.

POULTRY

The Agent's original program of work contemplated extensive poultry work, but due to a number of reasons this program was seriously hampered. First, an entire change in the Poultry Department of the University necessitated acquainting the people with the new personnel, and the new personnel had to become acquainted not only with the new people but with the new conditions as well. Second, The shipment of baby chicks into the state was prohibited for a number of months on account of the Foot and Mouth disease in California. However, considerable was accomplished in this regard, particularly in connection with brooding, housing and feeding. One breeding pen was selected, and present indications are that several farmers will follow similar practices in years to come. Four demonstrations were held at which the methods employed in selecting breeders was shown. These meetings were all well attended, and in justice to the present Poultry Department officials, their services are being well received, in fact, there is a greater demand for their services that they can conscientiously give.

Cotton.

Cotton culture is a new undertaking in this County, the present enthusiasm being due no doubt to the price and also to the fact that it has been demonstrated that cotton can be grown in this Valley. The Agent, having been employed in cotton work for a number of years before coming to this County, tried a few cotton tests shortly after arriving here. The next year saw about 100 acres grown commercially, and this year the contemplated acreage is 1,120 acres, of which about 850 acres will actually be planted and brought to maturity.

The cotton situation in this Valley immediately brought out several questions in regard to the quarantine laws due to the geographical locations of this Valley. The Arizona-New Mexico State line splits the Valley, and since Arizona has a cotton quarantine against New Mexico, and also since the pesky boll-weevil is no respecter of poor barbed wire fences, some precaution was absolutely necessary to intercept the ravages of this pest. With this idea in mind a conference was held with the Arizona Commission of Agriculture and Horticulture at which a meeting was planned at Duncan to be attended by both Arizona and New Mexico cotton growers. This meeting was well attended, and the questions involved were discussed from every angle. It was finally agreed that for and in consideration of the privilege of bringing cotton from New Mexico into Arizona for ginning purposes that the New Mexico farmers would assume the same quarantine regulations as were imposed upon the Arizona farmers. This, at first, was purely a gentlemen's agreement, but later the Arizona Quarantine Act was adopted by the Hidalgo County Commissioners. In this connection the inspectors for the Arizona Commission of Agriculture and Horticulture were given permission to enter fields in New Mexico, said inspection to be paid for by the individual farmers assisted by the New Mexico State College of Agriculture. This work is considered within itself worth the expense of a County Agent, for not only did it have a local importance, but was of equal necessity to the entire state.

In connection with the pure seed work in the Valley certain fields were selected by the agent to be rogued, but since the agent resigned before these fields reached this stage, the plans for this work were talked over with the Extension Agronomist and left to his discretion.

One cotton school was held at which lectures were given on the various phases of cotton farming. These schools were well attended, and have been a source of great help to the inexperienced farmers of this Valley.

The need of a practical cotton man of experience is seriously felt in the Valley at this time, and is a matter which should receive the serious attention of the Extension Service at once.

### Cereals.

One small grain variety test was planted on the ranch belonging to Mr. B. A. Wilson, and consisted of five varieties of wheat, namely; Dicklow, Federation White, Australian White, African and Kanrad. This was harvested after the agent resigned by one of the University officials.

### Potatoes.

Six-hundred pounds of potato seed was secured through the cooperation of the Coconino County Agent and was planted according to directions as a variety test.

### Rural Engineering.

Rural Engineering carried out by the Agent consisted of running levels on canals for the purpose of establishing grades for cleaning and also for the establishment of new canals or extensions to present canals. The principal work in this connection was with the Colmonero Canal Company of Sheldon, and consisted of installing two syphons, one flume, and about a mile of new canal construction. This covers considerable new land and also will materially lessen the cost of maintainance due to crossing canyons.

Considerable time was also spent in running surveys in contemplation of certain mergers of Canal Companies. This was wampleted in so far as the engineering was was concerned, but to-date, the consolidations have not taken place.

#### Live Stock)

The principal live stock work has been in connection with diseases. A mouth disease among the horses has caused considerable trouble by incapacitating the horses for labor. However, the cause of theis was soon determined and and ravages of the disease were soon under control.

A detailed statement of the calls made in connection with this line of work may be found in the book accompanying this report.

#### General,

Innumerable activities have been conducted by the agent which of necessity did not come under any particular project. For instance, one Child Welfare program was staged in cooperation with the Women's Club.

The fact that this report covers only the first six months of the year many of the projects are of necessity unfinished, and for this reason the record kept on each project is included with this report and as a part of this report for the guidance of the future agent, if any.

Respectfully submitted,

