
NARRATIVE

REPORT

FOR

Cochise County

December 1, 1922 to May 31, 1923

C. R. Adamson, County Agricultural Agent.

APRIL FIRST OUTLINE
of
WORK PLANNED FOR CURRENT REPORT YEAR

Cochise County
C. R. Adamson, County Agricultural Agent.

The following pages deal with the projects on which our program for 1923 is based.

MARKETING PROJECT

Our marketing project was started in 1921 and has progressed to such an extent that we do not have minute details concerning the business. Our relationship to it is surely of an advisory nature. A permanent organization was effected and the business is running smoothly. We consider this project one of the greatest with which we have been connected in the Extension Work. It has affected the prices of grains and supplementary feeds in every town in the county to some extent and all the farmers are thus benefitting from it. In 1921 where some merchants were selling these commodities at profits from 75¢ to \$1.25 a hundred, these profits are now ranging from 25¢ to 75¢ a hundred. The central Marketing Association is located at Willcox, but farmers within a radius of 25 to 50 miles have been trading with this cooperative market so that merchants in other towns in order to hold their trade, are compelled to lower their prices. The following communities were affected by this Marketing Association: San Simon, Bowie, Willcox, Cochise, Perace, Light, Webb, Whitewater, El Frida, Kelton, McNeal, Double Adobe, Fairbanks, Pomerene, St. David, Douglas, Bisbee and Hereford. It is difficult to give an accurate estimation of the actual financial saving or assistance which the Marketing Association has given the farmers. An idea of the benefits may be obtained when we make the statement that from one to twelve car loads of supplementary feeds a year, have been shipped to each of the foregoing communities, except Willcox. This community being the center of this Association received from two to five car loads a month. The goal in this project is to increase the efficiency of the Marketing Association both in buying and selling for the farmers and stockmen.

FARM ORCHARD PROJECT

The object of this project is two-fold. First, to increase the present size of the average home orchard and to establish an orchard where none at present exists. Second, to lead the average farmer to appreciate the need of pruning and other necessary care of the orchards to get the best results. We are taking one acre of ground as the basis on which to work out this plan. With the help of F. J. Crider, Horticulturist, with the College of Agriculture, we have worked out a plan for an acre orchard. While this plot is not necessarily an acre if size the general idea will be to work toward that size plot of ground. We prepared a sheet showing the plot of ground which is 174 by 200 feet. On the same sheet with the plot is a legend showing the varieties of trees and the number of each variety. The plot also shows the distance that should exist between the different trees. We wrote to two or three of the best nurseries asking them for special prices on trees secured for such a project. The nurseries responded very nicely and made us special prices delivered at the receiving station. This sheet was accompanied by a letter explaining the entire plan and was sent out to a large number of farmers over the county whom we knew to have no orchard, or at least only a few trees. This letter contained general instructions for setting out trees and grapes and other small fruits. In addition the farmer was told that if he desired special directions or attention, it would be forth-coming.

This is the third year of this project, and although the fruit in this county has been killed three years in succession by a late frost, thus tending to discourage the planting of orchards, we had nine cooperators in our acre orchard plant. All nine of the cooperators put out an orchard at least one acre in size. One woman put in five acres of fruit trees, mostly apples, and three acres of grapes. One man put in 16 acres of grapes, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of fruit trees. All together there was an area of 31 acres planted to grapes and fruit trees. Seventeen pruning demonstrations were held in different communities in the county with the result that some seventy odd acres of orchard were pruned more properly than they would otherwise have been done. Three spraying demonstrations were held and as a result 102 acres of fruit trees were sprayed. Owing to late frost killing practically all the fruit in the small orchards we were unable to tell how much good the spraying would have done, as compared to orchards not sprayed. Only two communities in the county have been noticeably affected by insects, thus necessitating spraying. The effects of the frost will be to help to destroy these pests as there is no fruit either this year or the past two in these communities on which the pests can live.

POULTRY PROJECT

The object of this project is to foster the increase of poultry raising over the entire county, with the idea of making poultry a definite factor as a source of income in the program of farm work. We expect to do this by following two lines of work, namely: First, to make an attempt to increase the farm flock to 100 hens, adopting the motto, "100 hens on every farm". Second, to raise the standard of the average farm flock: A.-Culling demonstrations, B.-Use of better males and the buying of baby chicks from breeders of good laying strains. C.-The adopting of definite feeding rations.

The localities covered by this project are: San Simon, Bowie, Willcox, Cochise, Pearce, Light, Webb, Whitewater, El Frida, Kelton, McNeal, Double Adobe, Fairbanks, Pomerene, St. David, Hereford, Bisbee and Douglas. About half of the localities named had definite poultry committeemen who numbered in all, 21. Twenty-eight demonstrations have been held dealing with some phase of poultry work. There were 17 definite cooperators in the furtherance of poultry work. Eight of these cooperating directly with the poultry department of the University. Thirty demonstration meetings were held with an average attendance of thirty-five. Seventeen of these were culling demonstrations, and the remainder were divided between figuring balanced rations and giving instructions for care of growing chicks. In addition to these demonstrations we have had a large amount of correspondence dealing with every phase of the care of poultry.

We found a more hearty cooperative spirit on this project taking the county as a whole, than in any of our other projects. Every community was represented. The poultry industry in Cochise County is growing rapidly. More than 14000 baby chicks have been ordered and delivered this spring. Approximately half of these were secured by people who have been interested in poultry raising for several years. The remaining one half were ordered by people who are newly interested in the industry and desire to increase their farm flocks. The orders for baby chicks were pooled and as high as 9000 were received in one shipment and disbursement made at the receiving station. Fifty-one owners of poultry flocks have culled their flocks following the instructions sent out by the culling department of the University. The County Agent assisted with a large number of these.

The largest item of work remaining to be done to complete our poultry project for 1922 is a series of culling demonstrations which will be conducted in August in cooperation with the poultry department of the University. We expect to have one demonstration in each community named in our second paragraph. These culling demonstrations will be conducted in connection with old flocks only, and will be held in the form of a school in order that the observer may go home and cull his flock accordingly.

DAIRY PROJECT

The object of our dairy project is to increase dairy farming as a permanent type of agriculture, improve the dairy herds found on the average farm through the "Better Sire" campaign, cow testing associations, and importation of high grade milking cows. In addition, we expect to make use of demonstrations and extension schools to teach the milk producer better methods of caring for his milk in the processes of colling and separating and in manufacture of dairy products.

Three localities have cooperated in this project and nine demonstration meetings were held in these localities. So far this year, we have had four cooperators. One man in the northern part of the county secured a herd of thirty high grade Holsteins, eight of which were registered. Another farmer in the same locality secured a herd of eleven high grade milk cows and since has bought three registered calves; these were also Holsteins. Two farmers in the central part of the county bought a registered bull each.

The biggest difficulty encountered in the dairy program has been a lack of ready finance for securing a better grade of animals. Quite a number of farmers are getting along with bulls already owned, rather than putting money out for new ones. There has been quite a little progress in the use of balanced rations for dairy cows and the prospects are better for an organized cow testing association. One registered Holstein was put on a seven and thirty day test completing both of them with a small margin more than was necessary to make the record. This is the first cow that has even completed an ARO test in Cochise County.

The work remaining to be to accomplished in reaching the goal set in the dairy project is to arrange for more ready capital for the deserving farmer and to complete the organization of cow testing associations and hold some demonstrations on the care of milk and the use of dairy products.

Through the use of a two-reel film put out by the U. S. D. A. every community in the county was shown the benefit of having the cows tested for tuberculosis. Eleven communities listed all owners of dairy cows and are ready to have this test made whenever the Government Veterinarian can come to Cochise County.

Dr. M. Shipley, Government Veterinarian, temporarily completed his work in the county on May 5, and left for Phoenix where a larger percentage of re-actors in the T.B. tests for dairy cows could be found. This was done because the emergency appropriation of \$10,000 had to be used before July 1. One thousand and seven cows were tested in the northern part of Cochise County within the following communities:

Dairy Project Continued.

San Simon, Bowie, McAlister, Stewart, Mt. View, Willcox, Pomerene, St. David and Benson. Twenty-four reactors were found which gives us an average of approximately 2.8%. Fifteen of these reactors were found in one herd. This herd was secured from one of the Salt River Valley Creameries and were supposed to have passed the T. B. test, but it is quite evident that there was some kind of a mistake made in the testing. We are sorry Dr. Shipley could not have remained in the county at this time to complete the work since the calls for testing of dairy cows are quite urgent. At the same time, we realize the advisability of using the appropriation before it would revert to the State. He probably can not return to the county for a completion of this work until after July 1.

SWINE PROJECT

The main object of this project is to increase hog raising in the county and to help make it a definite factor in the regular farm program. As a means to this end, we have the following definite aim for 1923: To market at least ten car loads of hogs either as feeders or in a finished condition. We expect to do this by consulting the owner of the hogs in different communities to induce them if possible, to agree to pool their hogs in groups sufficient to make one car load of butcher stuff. In addition to this, we will help the farmer to select the best type of young pigs to keep for breeding purposes. We will also assist him in finding a market for this breeding stock in this county and adjoining counties.

The San Simon, Bowie, Willcox, Cochise, Light, and Pearce communities are the only ones that have cooperated in this project. Four car loads of hogs have been shipped from these communities this year. Only three communities had definite committeemen to work on this project. Each committee was composed of one man. Altogether there were thirty-one cooperators.

It was necessary to hold but a few meetings in regard to this project as we had only to show the farmer the advantage of cooperative pooling and shipping of hogs as compared to selling them to local bidders. From $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2¢ per pound was obtained by using this method of marketing over what the owner would have received had he sold on the local market. Last year we sold fourteen car loads of hogs, but this year will do well to reach our goal of 10 cars as quite a number of our largest growers of last year are raising only a few.

SUGAR BEET PROJECT

This project is new for 1923 and its possibilities are as great as any project we could foster. The aim of this project is to determine definitely whether or not sugar beets can be grown profitable in Cochise County. To determine this, we must have adequate acreage and ascertain sugar content.

We have arranged for three farmers to grow from twenty to twenty-five acres of beets in one piece. Then there are sixty-five one-acre plots on as many farms scattered over the county. Thus we have a grand total of some 125 acres under test in this project. An expert sugar beet grower will be in the county from time of planting until the harvest is completed and samples of beets secured for making sugar tests. Beet seed is being furnished the farmers free of cost as well as special planting, cultivating and harvesting machinery. The duties of the expert is to make individual visits to each farmer conducting a test plot and to advise him as to the best methods of planting and cultivation and care of the beets in general.

We have somewhat definite assurance of a sugar beet factory being erected in the county if our project proves the growing of sugar beets in commercial quantities to be a success. We feel that if sugar beets grow successfully it can easily become the outstanding money crop for Cochise County and easily revolutionize the agricultural industry in this county, because of the available food stuffs for dairying and cattle raising as well as becoming a money crop for the grower.