

County  
Agent  
Reports  
for 1927

U. of A.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

D. W. ROGERS? COUNTY AGENT

APACHE COUNTY? ST. JOHNS. ARIZONA.

DATE: NOVEMBER? 30, 1927

MONTHS OF SERVICE 12.

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--NARRATIVE SUMMARY.\*\*--

1. Status of County Extension Organization

A. Form of Organization

- a. Work the University of Arizona is doing here

The organization of our extension force in this county is as I said last year ~~is~~ about the same as it has been in past years. This work is being carried out by the University of Arizona, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Apache County. So far these three agencies are doing good cooperative work and a very profitable work which should be continued.

- b. How the University Extension Service could be made better.

The extension Service which is being directed by Director P. H. Ross, is rather broad in its scope, since it not only has a county agent who works with the farmers and others in the county all of the time but it also has specialists in club work, poultry, agronomy, livestock, dairying and rodent control, who work in the county part of the time each year. Help, also, when needed may be secured from the different departments in the University. Such a service may be helpful to the farmers of this county if they will but use it.

B. Function of Local People

a. Farm Bureau

The Farm Bureau is well organized everything considered. We have five local farm bureaus in this county and most of the farmers are connected with one or the other of them. The farm bureau has helped the extension service in all active projects, such as poultry, general meetings and project work of all kinds.

b. Project Leaders

Our project leaders have for the most part done good work, as they have done in the past. The agent had the hope last year that more and better project work could be put over and it is his opinion at this time that this has been done during the past year. While this is true yet at the same time we have room for improvement, which improvement we will work for during this coming year.

c. Club Leaders.

While our club leaders this year in some cases did much better work in some towns than they did last year yet in others it was not so good and in two communities we did not have a club leader at all, the leadership being done by the agent himself. We had 40 club members start off and 30 of them completed their project, which while not as good as it could have been yet is fairly good work everything being considered.

11. PROGRAM OF WORK.

A. Factors Considered in Determining this Program.

1. Markets

a. Local Markets.

In considering our program of work naturally our markets must be considered as well as the kind of crops that we can grow here. Since, however, we can grow most anything that we want except in Alpine and Nutrioso, the most serious problem is the marketing end. This was considered as last year and we have been working on the crop or crops that we can get the most for per pound, since we are from 40 to 120 miles from a rail road and therefore can only get our crops to market by trucks, which for the most part costs more than by rail. We are therefore forced to produce crops that will bring from 5 to 40 cents per pound if we are to be very successful with our crops and therefore with our farms.

a. Local Markets.

In considering our local markets, as was stated last year, practically everything that can be grown should be grown, altho the amount that can be used at home will in time be limited even tho it is not at this time of marketable produce, such as eggs, cheese, hams, potatoes, flour and many other common things that we do produce locally. Therefore our first

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and most important problem is to produce enough for our local markets first. This is surely but gradually being done and we hope that before another year comes around that several local demands will be supplied locally as it should be done.

b. Distance Markets.

We of course not only have our local markets to supply but our distance markets as well, which is the real market if we are ever to do very much in our agricultural development. Seemingly our problem is not so much the finding of markets where our produce will sell at market prices as it is the producing first crops that the markets demand and second in putting them up in such a way that the markets can use them, and which of course can be successfully trucked out of the county. While we are making rather rapid progress along this line yet we must learn how to market our produce else we will never develop as we should. Our County Fairs have done much to help us along this line.

c. Trucks.

Our trucks and truckers are being developed rather rapidly for the benefit of the farmers. We have trucks here which can and do haul hay to the markets 100 bales at a load at a fair figure. Trucks will haul potatoes etc. from Springerville to Holbrook, a distance of 100 miles, when they can get a load to haul back, for 35 cents per hundred pounds. All in all seemingly the roads and trucks are making faster progress than the marketable crops are.

2. Successful Marketable Crops.

Due to our climatic conditions as well as was stated above, the most successful crops at this time are as follows; Beans, Alfalfa, wheat, flour, Sheep and wool, eggs and cream. Now all of these and probably more can be profitably grown and marketed. <sup>25</sup>providing the farmers themselves will do their part in producing them economically and putting them up in a marketable condition. Potatoes can be added to this list for any of our markets of 100 miles or less and we have a considerable market within this distance.

B. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS.

Our activities and results have been this year much better than in any year in the past. This has been true in practically every field. While we do not have as many long reports to make as we should have and which we hope to make in the future, yet our results are very encouraging to the agent if not to anyone else but we hope that they have been to others and we know that the President of the Farm Bureau, Mr. B. B. Crosby feels that something worth while has been done. We hope that the following report will prove that a few things have been done which are of some value.

1. Soils.

As compared with the past we have done a few things in this line that we have never been able to do before. We hope that in the future that more along this line can be done and we feel sure that it will be done since our soil specialists, Mr. E. S. Turville, is now taking a more active part in this line of work in this county than any other man along that line has ever done.

a. Manures.

Altho we did not have a project on this subject, yet several of the farmers are taking much better care of their manures this year than last due to the direct advice of the agent, for which we feel very proud since this is very hard to make the farmers put into practice.

c. Fall Plowing.

Last fall the agent had three farmers fall plow their land and during this summer the results have been watched rather closely. Also many of the farmers have noticed the results as well. On one of the farms which had been fall plowed the land was irrigated in the spring before the land was planted and then it was never irrigated again during that whole summer, whereas most other farmers irrigated their lands from 2 to 4 times in order to make a successful crop. We have several farmers at this time fall plowing their land and in a year or so we are hoping that fall plowing will be a common practice, a thing that it should be.

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c. Crop Rotation

Even tho the farmers of this county need to practice this probably more than most anyother farm practice yet it has been rather had to make them see that this is very essential to their progress. The agent feels however, that in the near future that this can be more successfully put over since we are now working on a system of agriculture which will naturally bring in the crop rotation system with it. Right in line with this idea the agent used some charts on diflerent types of farming, which were made by Mr. Turville in giving a series of lectures last March to the farmers of this county.

d. Reclamation.

Even tho we have many hundreds of acres of land in this county that needs to be reclaimed as well as one town which year by year is gradually being destroyed by water-logged land and therefore alkali, yet it is comparatively hard to get the people to take action along this line. Before the agent started his work with the Extension Service, he did try to get the people here to work along this line and failed utterly and therefore he has not done very much for the last year or so but since we have a man now in the county who really seems to want to do some of this work, the agent expects to spend a considerable of his time this coming season along this line of work.

2. Cereals.

a. General Work.

In general the work of cereals was advanced considerable this year. Some work was done on oats barley and wheat, by the farmers themselves. Our oats this year took the sweepstake at the State Fair which means that we can grow as good an oat here in this county as anywhere in the state.

While we have the control of smuts of wheat and most all cereals fairly well under control yet we have other diseases such as rust that we do not have so well under control. Generally our cereal problem is making fair progress altho they must have a much better milling wheat than they have if the ceral crops are ever to be made very productive. ✓

b. Wheat Variety Tests.

Last Spring or winter Dean J. J. Thornber



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of

agreed to make some tests wheat for the farmers of the northern part of this state. It was also agreed to do this work at Eagar, Arizona. Accordingly last March, the agent spent several days with Prof. R. S. Hawkins from the University of Arizona in helping him pick out some land and which to make these tests. The land for these tests was secured from Mr. Jacob Hamblin and one Mr. W. S. Brown was selected to do the work on the tests.

On the 3rd of Sept. the agent held a field day at these tests. We had Prof. Briggs, who is directly work<sup>ing</sup> out this experiment, at this meeting. 42 farmers were present. They were from 4 different towns in the county. While the farmers were at this meeting Mr. Briggs give them a talk on the wheat tests and also showed them around over the tests. Judging from the members present and the sentiment showed by those present we are confident that these tests are considered more than ~~of~~ worth while to these farmers and we hope that the testss will be<sup>n</sup> continued until such time that they know the best wheat for this part of the state.

Besides the meeting mentioned above many people have visited this project during this summer. While the yields of this have not been so large yet it did show some differences.

#### Flour and Milling of Wheat.

According to a survey of the products that are shipped into the county made by the agent a few years ago, we were shipping into this county 1,286,000 lbs. of flour. If we can produce a wheat that will make a good flour we should be able not only to stop this but to at least ship out this amount into near by towns like Holbrook and towns in New Mexico. This can be done if the wheat is produced since our Miller, Mr. Day, is doing all that he can to make his mill do its best work. At least this would seem to be the impression as he went last week to Safford and studied milling of flour under the miller of that place.

#### 43. Legumes and Forage Crops.

Practically all of the work that we have done along this line has been to try to find some forage crop that would do well in our mountain towns. This is very important information since for these people to secure plenty of good hay is a real problem.