

ANNUAL
NARRATIVE - REPORT

for

GILA COUNTY

ARIZONA

December 1st, 1937 - November 30th, 1938

S. W. Armstrong

County Agricultural Agent

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INTRODUCTION

GILA

1938

This report covers the third year of Extension Work in Gila County. The present Agent started Extension work in this County. A part time Home Demonstration Agent worked in the County for two years but this work was discontinued this year.

Most of the farmers in Gila County make their livelihood from producing feeder cattle, so naturally the Extension Program carries a large percent of livestock projects. A campaign for improving the quality of the cattle in the County has been carried on for the past three years.

Some Horticultural work is carried on in the northern part of the County where there are a number of commercial orchards. A proper care and management of orchards campaign has been carried on for the past three years.

Preservation of Foods for home consumption has been stressed and this project is showing some very fine results.

The Agricultural Conservation Program in Gila County is of minor importance because over 95% of the land in the County is Federally Controlled.

The long distances between communities and ranches and a very scattered population make the costs of Extension Work exceedingly high in comparison with the results accomplished.

ORGANIZATION

GILA

1938

The Gila County Farm Bureau was organized in 1935 for the express purpose of having an Agricultural Agent appointed for Gila County. The 1938 officers elected in December, 1937 were: S. L. Dixby, President; William Spurlock, Vice President; and L. P. Horrell, Secretary and Treasurer. The Program of Work of the Extension Service for 1938 was approved at this meeting. Forty-five paid up members belong to the Farm Bureau this year.

The Agent attended the Annual State Extension Service Conference that was held the first week in January. This conference was the best one ever attended by the Agent.

The Executive Committee of the Farm Bureau met in June and approved the 1938-39 Extension Service budget. The budget was approved by the Gila County Board of Supervisors at the July budget meeting.

No other Organization work was done this year except to take care of routine office work. The same plan of procedure will probably be carried out during the coming year.



Annual Meeting of Gila County Cattle Growers' Association.

CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

GILA

1938

The work with Beef Cattle Producers in Gila County is divided into two projects. All marketing, organization, and association work is included under the project called Cattle Growers' Association, and all other Beef Cattle work is included in a project called "Beef Cattle".

Marketing assistance is given the cattlemen by maintaining a Cattle Listing Service and twice a year this listing sheet, showing all cattle for sale in the County, is mailed to 250 cattle buyers located in various parts of the United States. This listing sheet service has helped market a number of cattle. The cattle buyers come to the Agents office for information about cattle for sale and the cattlemen report all cattle sold so the information can be kept up to date. The quality of the cattle in Gila County has improved a great deal in the past year.

The Extension Service Program in Gila County is sponsored by the Gila County Cattle Growers' Association and most of the Farm Bureau Members are also Cattle Growers' Association Members. The Agent takes care of all of the Association correspondence and handles the Secretarial work.

The Association, in cooperation with the Extension Service, has held two Cattle Judging Demonstrations this year and the Gila County Cattle Growers' Association furnishes the money for the food and the Agent supervises the serving of the meals. A joint meeting of the Northern Arizona Cattle Growers' Association and the Gila County Cattle Growers' Association was held at Heber in August. The Agent had charge of the arrangements for this meeting. Three hundred thirty-seven people attended this meeting and were served a noon meal. The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association Members who were on the Summer Tour attended this meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the Gila County Cattle Growers' Association was held on October 10th at the McFadden ranch on

GILA COUNTY CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
 LISTING SHEET
 MARCH 12, 1938

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Name	Address	R.R.	1 YR. Steer	2 YR. Steer	1 YR. Heif.	Dry Cows	Cows & Calves	Weaner Calves	Bulls	Del. Date	Remarks
Boy Tucker	Globe	Radium	70		30					5/25	Dehorned
Donnie McFadden	Globe	Radium	60		60					5/10	Dehorned
Gordon McFadden	Globe	Radium	60		60					6/10	Dehorned
L. C. McFadden	Globe	Radium	80		80	25	25			5/10	Dehorned
Wagen & Anderson	Globe	Radium	80	2	50	20			10	5/20	Dehorned
Levi Grantham	Young	Radium	120		50	20				5/15	Dehorned
John Moore	Whiteriver	San Carlos	100	10	100	15	15			5/15	Dehorned
Webb Brothers	Globe	Radium	90		90					5/15	Dehorned
L. H. Shute	Globe	Radium	40	5	10	20			2	5/15	
L. J. Randall	Pine	Clarkdale	200	35	100	50				6/1	
L. G. Sanders	Globe	San Carlos	80	40	20	50					Dehorned
Alfred Fuller	Pine		35	5	20						
Ed Bowman	Coolidge Dam		120	10	50	20	30			5/15	
Jeff McInturff	Young	Radium	3								
W. L. Neil	Payson	Radium									31 Head of Mixed Cattle
Mrs. Lou Piper	Globe	Radium									50 Head of Mixed Cattle
L. V. Marley	Globe	Radium									Over 1000 head of Mixed Cattle



Placing ring of calves at judging demonstration.

Salt River. The new officers elected were: William Spurlock, President; W. C. McFadden, Vice-president; Stephen L. Bixby, Secretary; and Frank L. Parker, Treasurer. A Cattle Judging Demonstration was held in connection with this meeting. Director C. U. Pickrell attended this meeting and introduced Mr. Wigdon, the new Livestock Specialist.

A number of Committee and Director's meetings of the Association were held in the Agents office during the year. The Agent spent twenty-five days working on this project.

This project was carried through the year almost exactly like it was planned at the beginning of the year. As this is the most important project of the Extension Service in Gila County, this project should be carried along next year in just about the same manner as last year.



Classing cattle for market.

BEEF CATTLE

GILA

1938

This project was started to handle all of the Beef Cattle work in Gila County except marketing and organization work. The most important part of this project is to assist the cattlemen in Gila County to improve the quality of the cattle in the County.

In December, the Agent held a Beef Cattle Judging Demonstration at the Young High School. The students of the Young High School were the only people present at this meeting.

A Cancer Eye Removal Demonstration was held at the A Cross Ranch in April. Dr. William Pistor, the University of Arizona Veterinarian, gave this demonstration. Several cows suffering with Cancer Eye were gathered for this meeting. Several of the cattlemen attending this meeting performed the Cancer Eye operation after Dr. Pistor demonstrated how the job should be done by removing the first infected eye. Several cattlemen now make a regular practice of performing this operation.

A Dehorning Demonstration was held at the Ed Horrell Ranch. Practically all of the cattlemen in the County are now dehorning all of the calves. Six outfits started dehorning for the first time this year.

The Agent attended the Tucson Livestock Show at Tucson in February. Three entries of Feeder Calves from Gila County were entered at the show. The Pen of Calves belonging to Mr. L. P. Horrell won fifth place in the contest. This same pen of calves won fifth in the second phase of the contest and the pen of calves belonging to Mr. W. C. McFadden won first place in the third phase dressing percentage contest. Mr. S. L. Bixby's calves won third in the dressing percentage contest.

A Cattle Judging Demonstration was held at the McFadden Ranch on October. Director C. U. Pickrell and the new Livestock Specialist, Mr. T. Rigdon, assisted with this meeting.



Dr. Pistor removing a Cancer Eye.

The Agent attended the Northern Arizona Cattle Show that was held in Holbrook during September. A large number of the cattlemen from the northern part of Gila County attended this show and Spurlock Brothers had cattle entered in the show.

The Agent has assisted a number of cattlemen in selecting breeding stock for their ranges. The Agent was called to the Hagen and Anderson ranches to assist them to select a number of yearling heifers that were to be held for breeding stock.

Several cattlemen have consulted the Agent about feeding calves that had to be weaned on account of lack of feed for the mother cows. Several outfits have had to wean all of the calves and feed them so the cows could live through the winter.

The Agent has visited a large number of ranches and handled a large number of Office Calls on Miscellaneous Subjects related to the cattle business.

The Beef Cattle work has progressed just about like it was planned at the beginning of the year and this project should continue to be one of the most important projects in the County. Very few changes are expected in the cattle business of Gila County for most of the lands that the cattle are grazed on are controlled by Federal Agencies and these Agencies have very set rules.



A cattleman removing Cancer Eye under
Dr. Pistor's supervision.



Lunch time at Cancer Eye Demonstration.

POULTRY MANAGEMENT

GILA

1938

The poultry work in Gila County is not a very important part of the Extension Program. Several of the smaller isolated communities such as Payson and Young did not produce enough eggs to supply the local demand. The Agent and Poultry Specialist, Mr. C. F. Rowe, encouraged a few local farmers to get into the chicken business heavy enough to supply the local markets. There are several flocks of turkeys in the Pleasant Valley area that number over 300 birds.

The Agent spent seventeen days working on this program and was assisted a total of six days by the Specialist, Mr. C. F. Rowe. Four method demonstrations were held on various subjects. Plans were furnished to build two new poultry houses. Mr. Otis Barkley, a beginner in the poultry business, built a new house, purchased four hundred sexed pullet chicks and grew them out to furnish eggs for the Payson market. Mr. Barkley is a 100% co-operator, following the Extension Service recommendations as closely as possible.

The white leghorn flock of Mr. Lillard Ligon of Payson became infected with a very serious outbreak of Roup and he will probably have to sell his entire flock of old hens to clean up the trouble. This Roup was introduced into the flock by allowing adult male birds from the Salt River Valley to be placed with the flock.

The Gerald Craig flock, located in the Pinal Mountains, have not been producing as well as they did last year. Mr. Craig has had considerable trouble with his pullet flock this Fall.

The Poultry Project has progressed just about as planned. The long distance between flocks and the isolated location of each flock helps to make poultry raising profitable. The nine or ten commercial poultrymen in the County are making a little money each year and if the number of birds in the County will be held at about the present level so no eggs will have to be exported, except during peak production, the producers should continue to make a small profit.



A new, properly designed poultry house.

HORTICULTURE

CHLA

1939

This project was started to take care of all of the Horticultural work in the County. The Agent spent twenty-seven days working on various phases of this project and was assisted ten days by the Horticultural Specialist. A total of twenty-four meetings were held in connection with this project.

DECIDUOUS FRUITS

A Codling Moth Control Program has been carried on in the Pine area for the past three years. This year the results of the control measures were very outstanding. Less than 20% of the apples in the area were wormy. The control measures used were: Beta Naphol Bands, and a general clean up campaign including destroying all dropped fruit.

Pruning Demonstrations were held in all of the fruit producing sections of the County. A total of eleven deciduous fruit tree pruning demonstrations were held in eight communities. One Grape Pruning Demonstration was held at the Frank Randall Farm at Pine.

Two Deciduous Fruit tree grafting demonstrations were given by the Horticultural Specialist, Mr. H. F. Tate.

The Parker orchard near Globe was examined by the Agent and found to be dying with Crown Gall. The Cline orchard at Young was examined and Fire Blight was found.

NUT TREES

In some of the more protected canyons in the County, Native Walnuts trees are growing in large numbers. The Horticultural Specialist and Agent have both advised top working some of the most vigorous Native Walnut trees to English and Improved Black Walnuts. Three grafting demonstrations were held this year.



A good Walnut Graft on the Devore Farm.

Two Pecan grafting demonstrations were held this year. Young seedling trees at the Otis Barkley Farm, at Gisela, and old seedling trees at the Horrell Ranch, on Pinto Creek, were the trees that were worked over.

HOME GARDENS

A Home Garden Improvement Campaign was started in the County in 1935. Diseases and Insects of Gardens had built up to a point where some vegetables could not be produced. The Pine area was the worst in the County.

This year, two meetings were held at Pine to discuss Garden Diseases and Insects. Two gardens were selected as Result Demonstrations and these gardens had the seeds treated, were fertilized, sprayed, and dusted at various times during the season. These two gardens were the best in the Community.

HOME BEAUTIFICATION

A Home Beautification Program has been carried on in Globe in cooperation with the Garden Department of the Woman's Club of Globe. Mr. Tate spent two days in January meeting with the Woman's Club to discuss Home Beautification plans and to hold a Flower Garden pruning demonstration. Mr. J. H. O'Dell, the Agricultural Agent of Maricopa County, met with the Club in October and discussed Fall Planting of Flowers.

This project was carried on about as planned and very little change in plans for next year should be considered.

HOME CANNING

GILA

1938

Gila County is very sparsely settled and most of the farmers in the County live a long distance away from the towns where fresh food can be purchased. Before Extension Work was started in this County in 1935, the diet of the rural people during the summer months was very poor, consisting mostly of beans, bread, and jerked meat.

A food preserving campaign was started to correct this condition and canning by use of tin cans and pressure cookers was the main method stressed. As there is no home Demonstration Agent in Gila County, the Agricultural Agent has carried on this program. A relatively large amount of time was spent on this project during the past year.

Twenty meat canning demonstrations and instructions on the use and care of sealers were held in the County with a total attendance of 209 people. The attendance per meeting is very low because the rural population is quite scattered. A total of 1620 cans of food were preserved at these meetings. Most of the canning demonstrations were held at various cattle ranch headquarters. However, the Pine Community, which is primarily a farming district, has cooperated nearly 100% and twelve out of a possible sixteen families in that community own canning equipment and can meat and vegetables in large quantities.

The Agent was called to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, with headquarters located at Whiteriver, to supervise the installation of a small cannery and to give canning instructions to the operators of this cannery. The Agent spent three days at Whiteriver setting up the cannery and helping can six beefs, making a total of 641 No. 3 cans of meat. A total of thirty-one cows were canned at this cannery in 1938. This meat was used to feed needy Indians.

Nineteen cookers and twenty-one tin can sealers have been purchased by cooperators this past year. The Agent considers the Home Canning project as one of the most important projects in Gila County.

This project is the most popular work being carried on in the County and this past year the accomplishments have exceeded the goals set up at the beginning of the year.

The Home Canning project should be carried on in about the same way again next year except that the work will have to be carried out in more isolated areas. This will cut the attendance per meeting and will make it necessary to give more personal help to individuals.



Canning equipment used at Meat Canning Demonstration.

RURAL REHABILITATION

GILA

1938

This project was started to cooperate with the Federal Rural Rehabilitation Administration Program. The title of the Federal Program has been changed to the Farm Security Administration. Very little work has been done on this project by the Agent during the past year as most of the needy cases were taken care of in the preceeding year. The Agent spent a total of two days working in cooperation with Mr. Eli Abegg, the Farm Security Administration Supervisor. Farm plans for several prospective clients were discussed and passed on by the County Committee.

There should be very little work develop on this project during the coming year if the present set up is continued, for about all of the worthy, needy farmers have been assisted during the past two years.

FAIRS

GILA

1938

The Annual Pleasant Valley Fair was started in 1935 to stimulate interest in producing better Agricultural products and to help create an interest in Community Activities. The Woman's Club of Young sponsors the Fair and the Gila County Board of Supervisors donate \$100.00 to be used for premium awards. The Agent directs the Fair and the Extension Service furnishes the judges.

The 1938 Pleasant Valley Fair was the best one that has been held. The quality of the exhibits were above average and the community interest was very good. A free lunch was given by the Woman's Club of Young. About 200 people attended the Fair this year.

The Pine Community held a small Fair this year for the first time. The Agent was called on to assist with the judging and a committee of three, including the Agent, judged all of the products displayed. The Fair was sponsored by the Pine Mutual Benefit Society and they are planning on making this show an annual event.

The Agent thinks that it is desirable to continue holding two Community Fairs in the County and not to try to hold a large County Fair. There is not a large enough farming area to produce good quality products for a large centrally located Fair.

RURAL ENGINEERING

GILA

1938

This project was started to take care of any Rural Engineering problems that might develop in connection with the farming and ranching operations of the rural residents of Gila County.

Very little work has been done on this project during the past year. Two poultrymen were given instructions in building the proper type of poultry houses for their conditions. One cattleman was given assistance in laying out a new pipe line. Several office calls in relation to this subject were handled throughout the year.

The amount of work that develops in this project is governed by the amount of building and improving that the farmers in the County decide to do. At present, very little of this work is being started. The outlook for next year seems to be that practically no Rural Engineering work will be necessary.



Grass growing on deferred grazing area.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

GILA

1938

This project was set up to handle the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in Gila County. Over 95% of the lands in Gila County are controlled by Federal Agencies so the A.A.A. Program is not very important in this County.

At the beginning of the year, meetings were held in the Payson and Pleasant Valley districts to elect officers for the Association and to discuss plans for the new year. The County Committeemen elected were: R. J. Cook, Young, Chairman; Jeff McInturff, Young, and O. G. Barkdoll, Payson, members; and Joe Bassett, Payson, Alternate Member. A total of six meetings to assist in the carrying on of the project were held during the entire year.

Fifty-four farm Work Sheets were filled out and four Range Applications were submitted to the County Committee. Only about twenty-five farms will qualify this year. A very dry summer prevented a number of farms from qualifying. Mr. Orley Randall, of Payson, was appointed Supervisor to check compliance under the program. The work has not been completed but a preliminary report shows only twenty-five farms being eligible to draw payments. Two farms in this County were given cotton allotments this year.

The Range Program in this County is very limited because a large percent of the area is federally controlled lands. Three cooperators will draw payment this year.

The Oak Creek district of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation qualified for a deferred grazing payment. This district is the only Indian land in the State to qualify for payment. A total payment of \$1200.00 will be paid to the Oak Creek Tribal Association. Mr. John Kelly, the stockman for this district, was largely responsible for the Indians keeping the cattle and horses out of the deferred area, thus making it possible for them to receive payment.

Gila County farming is largely supplemental to Range Livestock operations and for this reason, the Agent expects the number of farms qualifying for Agricultural Conservation payments in future years to diminish rather than increase in number. The number of range applications are limited on account of the large acreage of federally controlled land.



A set of triggers at a new cattle trap built under the
Range Conservation Program.

MISCELLANEOUS

GILA

1938

DAIRY CATTLE

The Agent and Dairy Specialist, Mr. C. F. Rowe, spent two days in the Pine Community holding an American Cheese Making Demonstration and on the following day, holding a Butter Making Demonstration, and a Cottage Cheese Making Demonstration. The demonstrations were held at the Recreation Hall in Pine, and the materials were furnished by Mrs. W. J. Randall. On a check up this Fall, it was found that seven women were making American Cheese and several had improved the quality of the Cottage Cheese they were making at their homes.

GRASSHOPPERS

There was a severe outbreak of grasshoppers in the Pleasant Valley area again this year. Mr. H. F. Tate, the Horticultural Specialist, made a grasshopper survey early in the summer and decided that the area should be furnished with government issued poison materials. Four and one half tons of bran and forty-five gallons of Sodium Arsenite were distributed to the farmers in this area. The C. Land and Cattle Company had a very severe infestation of grasshoppers on their range and farm land. About two ton of poisoned bran was distributed on their range and farm lands. Mr. Jeff McInturff acted as mixing foreman and distributed all of the poison materials that were used in that area.

ENCEPHALOMYELITIS OR SLEEPING SICKNESS OF HORSES

During the month of August, Dr. Crump, the Federal Veterinarian in charge of Arizona, visited the Agent and informed him that there was a serious outbreak of Encephalomyelitis or Sleeping Sickness of Horses developing in the State. Dr. Crump assisted the Agent in preparing a letter warning all of the horse

owners in the County about this disease and giving the best methods of control. Three cases of Sleeping Sickness developed in Gila County and about 300 horses were vaccinated to prevent the spread of the disease.

FARMERS FIELD DAY

The Agent was called to Tucson in December to help with the program for the Farmers Field Day. About 450 people attended this Field Day. The Agent prepared the barbecue and cooked 313 pounds of beef. Beans, beef, bread, pickles, and coffee were served to the people that attended the Field Day.

PARKER CREEK MEETING

The Agent attended a two day meeting of the Forest Service at the Parker Creek Experiment Station. The purpose of this meeting was to acquaint the people of the irrigated valleys with the work they were carrying on at the Experiment Station.

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

The Biological Survey sent a man to the Pine and Pleasant Valley areas to spend a week teaching people how to control gophers. Considerable poison grain was distributed in these two areas.

COCHISE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

The Cochise County Farm Bureau officials requested that the Gila County Agent go to Elfrieda, Cochise County, on February 23rd, to supervise the barbecue at the road dedication that they were sponsoring. The Agent was sent to this meeting and 2500 pounds of beef were barbecued. A total of 4500 people were served 2500 pounds of barbecued beef, 150 gallons of beans, 350 loaves of bread, and other foods in like proportions.

Several cows and horses were treated for various ailments and wounds.

A large number of Miscellaneous office calls and farm visits too numerous to list were handled by the Agent.

A total of 69 days were spent on Miscellaneous work and eight meetings on various Miscellaneous subjects were held in the County.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GILA COUNTY

December 1, 1937 - November 30, 1938

Spent 284 days, driving 11,292 miles, to carry on Extension work in Gila County.

Spent 138 days in the office and 146 days in the field.

Handled 729 Office Calls, 104 Telephone Calls, and made 365 Farm and Home Visits.

Held 50 Method Demonstration Meetings with an attendance of 474.

Held 25 Other Meetings with an attendance of 2545.

Held two Community Fairs in the County.

Maintained an active Farm Bureau and Cattle Growers' Association.

Assisted Cattle Growers' Association maintain cattle selling service and collect money for American National Livestock Association.

Held six meetings on various phases of the Livestock Industry.

Held two Cheese Making Demonstrations in County.

Successfully controlled an outbreak of Sleeping Sickness of horses.

Carried on a successful Poultry Program.

Held 20 Meat Canning Demonstrations, sealing 1600 tin cans at all demonstrations.

Influenced Home Canning cooperators to buy 19 large pressure cookers and 21 tin can sealers.

Held 25 meetings on various Horticultural Subjects.

Carried on successful Codling Moth Control Campaign.

Carried on successful Home Garden Improvement Campaign.

Cooperated with Woman's Club of Globe on Home Beautification Program.

Completed a successful Agricultural Conservation Program.

Cooperated with Farm Security Administration to assist all worthy,
needy farmers.

Spent 69 days working on Miscellaneous Agricultural problems,
holding 8 meetings on Miscellaneous Subjects.

OUTLOOK

GILA

1938

The Agricultural situation in Gila County should remain practically the same in 1939 as it was in 1938. Most of the land in Gila County is controlled by Federal Agencies and no changes in their plans are anticipated, therefore, a very small percent of the farms could make changes.

The range cattle situation should continue through next year without any changes. The Cattle Growers' Association membership is holding up well and the Association is giving its full cooperation to the Extension Service and continues to sponsor the Extension Service Program.

A small expansion in the Horticultural Program would be justified as there is an opportunity for further work along Horticultural lines.

The work with rural homes should be expanded and an increase in this work is planned in at least three Communities.

The balance of the projects should be continued approximately the same as in 1938 except for the Agricultural Conservation Program. This program will decrease in 1939.

TENTATIVE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAM

GILA COUNTY

December 1, 1938 - November 30, 1939

Projects	Method of Procedure	Goals
Cattle Growers' Association Project No. I	Meetings Farm Visits Demonstrations	A successful organization
Beef Cattle Improvement Project No. II	Demonstrations Farm Visits Publicity	Hold 4 demonstrations Improve quality of Beef Cattle
Poultry Management Project No. III	Farm Visits Demonstrations	Improve Poultry Practices
Horticulture Project No. IV	Farm Visits Meetings	Control Insects and Diseases of vegetables Improve orchard practices Control Codling Moth
Home Canning Project No. V	Demonstrations Publicity	Hold 20 canning demonstrations Improve diet of Rural families
Rural Rehabilitation or Farm Security Project No. VI	Publicity Committee Meetings	Assist worthy farmers
Fairs Project No. VII	Publicity Meetings	Hold 2 successful Community Fairs
Rural Engineering Project No. VIII	Farm Visits	Assist farmers with Engineering problems
Agricultural Conservation Project No. IX	Meetings Publicity Farm Visits	Conserve Soil Fertility Cooperate with Federal Program