

YUMA COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

for the period of

December 1, 1960 through June 30, 1961

by

Beryl Burt  
Home Agent

This narrative report covers the activities and program of the agent for the period of December 1, 1960 through June 30, 1961.

The program was centered in the areas of Youth Development and Leadership Development with some work being devoted to other areas.

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

#### I. Youth Organizations

##### A. 4-H Club

##### 1. Membership - general

The enrollment in 4-H club work in Yuma County totals 469 with 288 girls and 181 boys. Those carrying home economics projects are as follows:

Food Preparation	176
Food Preservation	6
Home Furnishings	37
Clothing	168

This membership is divided into sixteen clubs reaching into twelve communities. Two areas not served, but where there is a potential for club work are Salome and Ehrenburg. At this writing a club is about to be organized at Ehrenburg for the club year of 1961-62. Salome has had active 4-H work in the past, but has none now primarily because of the lack of volunteer leaders.

##### 2. Membership - special

##### 4-H Club for Mentally Retarded Children

Upon request of the Yuma Association for Mentally Retarded Children, the 4-H agents surveyed the possibility of a 4-H program for these children. The request came from the parents since they felt no other existing youth program in Yuma offered the opportunities for social development combined with practical training in skills useful in everyday life and possibly a start toward vocational training.

The children were observed in their special education classroom, their teachers consulted, and literature, as available, reviewed.

Specific objectives, resulting from a conference with representatives from the Mentally Retarded Association and youth agents, for such a 4-H program were established as follows:

- a. personal or emotional adjustment
- b. social adjustment
- c. economic adjustment.

A further review of literature dealing with the mentally retarded child uncovered a set of basic needs for these children:

- a. Having opportunities to participate in worthwhile activities.
- b. Feeling that they are valuable, contributing members of a group.
- c. Being accepted for what they are.
- d. Having success in the performance of these worthwhile activities.

The next task was to attempt to devise a 4-H Club program into terms and projects applicable to the abilities of these boys and girls. A plan for a semblance of organization with emphasis primarily on group participation incorporating individual abilities serves as the frame work for the further development of the details of the program. Projects include all phases of home economics, crafts, pet care, gardening, safety, and woodworking. Others will evolve as the needs and interests of the youngsters demand.

Parent education as to the aims of the program and the enlisting of high school age students to assist with project work were two of the first steps taken in getting the program "off paper" and into a functioning one. In cooperation with the Yuma Association for Mentally Retarded Children, a circular letter was mailed to parents and other interested persons in the community to both explain 4-H Club work and the new 4-H Mentally Retarded Program, and to appeal for volunteer leaders. Mrs. Henry Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Waits are serving more or less as the Community Leaders and Coordinators of the activities.

To acquaint the high school girls from 4-H, FHA and Anchor Club who will work both with 4-H and with the summer recreational program, two meetings were held with more being scheduled through the summer. These are primarily serving as an opportunity for the girls to learn behavior tendencies of the group, how to work with the youngsters and discipline methods.

In May, the Mentally Retarded 4-H Club had its first meeting. Their business meeting, composed of roll call, salute to flags, 4-H pledge, a program composed of either movie or discussions by the members of their project work, and recreation which will alternate between singing, games or folk dancing, is the first Thursday of each month; their project meeting, the third Thursday.

## B. Projects

### Teen-Age Nutrition

The result of a survey in the Western Region disclosed the inadequacies in a teenagers nutritional well being. This evidence when collaborated with local information from a survey done in Yuma County and the fact that Dr. Spindler, Federal Extension Nutritionist, was available for a workshop here, were good reason to attempt some course of action here in the county.

Invitations to all agencies in the county -- schools, scouts, etc. -- inviting them to be represented at a teenage nutrition conference were distributed. The adults were asked to have at least two teenagers in attendance, also. Response was quite limited.

The nutritional situation was explained, teenage efforts for better nutrition programs in other parts of the United States were introduced, possible solutions to better nutrition of Yuma County teenagers were discussed.

The Conference, in itself, did not reach the level of success which had been hoped for. However, from it there came the opportunity to do some educational work in nutrition in the Parker area where the Student Council at Parker High in conjunction with the Lion's Club is establishing a Teen Center.

### 3. Citizenship Activities

#### a. Fairs

##### (1) Yuma County

To provide the 4-H members an opportunity for county-wide exhibit of their project work and to serve as a means of evaluating the work completed, the 4-H'ers in the County participate each year in the Yuma County Fair. This year from April 5-10 between 1,000 and 1,500 4-H exhibits were on display.

Local 4-H leaders and jr. leaders served as department superintendents and directed the judging of the exhibits, as well as having planned and executed the Public Dress Revue. Judges were home agents from Pinal County.

#### b. Pre-Fairs

To provide 4-H members the opportunity for exhibiting project work on a local basis, to evaluate their accomplishments to date, and to supply them with educational experiences, pre-fairs were held in several areas of the county.

These pre-fairs are organized by the clubs themselves with Extension workers serving as judges and evaluators. The pre-fairs vary in degree of emphasis on ribbon placings and awards. The Crane-Jackrabbit Pre-Fair is more or less a supervised workday for livestock members and an evaluation day for home ec 4-H'ers. No ribbons are awarded here. The Lower Valley Pre-Fair which includes the Somerton-Gadsden clubs pattern their day more like the County Fair as does the Up and Coming Club in the Gila Valley.

It has been found that these pre-fairs serve as an excellent educational tool because in most cases the parents are in attendance with the members. Quality of work improves as is evidenced by that exhibited at the County Fair.

c. Summer Camp

In order that Yuma County 4-H'ers have the experience of learning and fellowship that camping offers, YUCOSA, meaning Yuma County Summer Activity, was held June 5-10 at Camp Arbolado near Redlands, California.

The hundred twenty jr. age youngsters attending learned 4-H information, recreation, songs, and class subjects varying from swimming and nature craft to entomology and folk dancing and also had their choice of eight crafts.

Local and jr. leaders served as instructors with Extension personnel coordinating the program.

d. Parliamentary Procedure

That it might serve both as an incentive to clubs to organize and conduct effective monthly programs during the year and to provide a group activity for competition, the Annual 4-H County Parliamentary Procedure Contest was held in January. Members from five clubs presented mock business meetings in competition in two divisions (determined by the number of members in the clubs). Local judges for the event were from the Toastmaster's Club and First National Bank.

e. Judging

To assist Yuma County 4-H members to develop skills of evaluation, organization of thought and self confidence, 4-H judging activities were launched during December with a judging workshop. At this activity, all phases of agriculture and home economics were covered.

In Home Economics one ring was set up in each of the three areas: foods, clothing, and home furnishings. The "How's" of judging were taught with the able assistance of local leaders. In this workshop everyone judged in all three areas regardless of what project they were carrying. Standards for each ring were given the girls before they actually judged the ring. Our interest was not so much in testing their subject matter knowledge, but in giving them experience in practicing the placings of rings, organizing their thoughts and giving reasons.

Representation was excellent from most clubs, and the knowledge the youngsters had gained here was most evident at the County Judging Contest in February. Those who had attended the workshop stood head and shoulders above those who had not.

That 4-H members might have further judging experience and that it might serve as an evaluation of abilities, the county 4-H judging contest was held in February.

To make it possible for more members to participate, the contest was held on two separate Saturdays -- one in Yuma, one in Parker. Both junior and senior members judged rings in agriculture (electricity, garden, home beautification, and entomology) and home economics (foods, clothing, home furnishings). Fifty-seven members placed the various classes established by both local project leaders and agents.

The three members having the highest scores in each class from both the contests will do further practice and study in preparation for the elimination contests to be held after school is out in June. This elimination will determine Roundup delegates, for the top three in each division will represent Yuma County in State competition.

#### f. Demonstrations

So that Yuma County 4-H members would have the opportunity to participate in demonstrations for their development of skills and themselves as an individual demonstrations are encouraged as a part of the 4-H Club program. As a measuring or evaluation time for them, a County Demonstration Contest was conducted in May.

Competition was open to both Jr. and Sr. age members with senior winners being named Roundup delegates. Eighteen demonstrations were presented in home economics. Fewest demonstrations were in the clothing area, with more in foods and several in home furnishings.

Leaders directed the program of the day held at the Fairgrounds with local home economists serving as judges.

## II. Other Youth Organizations

### A. Girl Scouts

Good teenage nutrition is of prime importance. As part of their badge work, Girl Scouts must study nutrition, have a home economist or nutritionist discuss good eating habits with them, plus many other "do-it-yourself" requirements. The agent presented a nutrition lesson for a local troop.

By means of a flannelgraph presentation, the girls evaluated a balanced day's intake of food, and a poor daily intake. The essential four as a means of evaluation was explained to an employed by the Scouts. A basic discussion of vitamins and minerals emphasizing why the body needs them preceded an explanation of what makes a nutritious snack and the understanding of empty calories.

Two games, based on the nutrition information presented in the lesson were played. Since then, these same games have been distributed to all 4-H Foods leaders for use in their project meetings.

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

#### I. Project Training

A. Specialized

1. Jr. Leader Money Management

The South County Junior Leaders are studying money management in a series of four lessons. The first of those lessons was held during their January meeting.

Where and how money was received, how it was spent, and the steps in establishing a spending plan were the objectives of the teaching to be done this first lesson. A film, "Your Thrift Habits", was previewed by the committee of the Junior Leaders Association and was used as a basis for discussion. Junior Leaders trained at Junior Leader Lab. in discussion techniques served as discussion leaders in the three discussion groups.

For those particularly interested in this phase of their program, added special interest work is being done. Eight are working to improve their money management with them providing the basis for discussing "Spending Plans" at the February meeting; for these eight are keeping, the balance of the month of January, an accurate account of their intake and expenditures.

The second meeting's emphasis was on setting up a logical spending plan for each of their particular needs. Subject matter was covered by means of discussion based on the actual income and spending of some of the junior leaders.

Four of the members have continued to keep a record of income and expenses.

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William R. Wilhelm  
Assistant Agricultural Agent



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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

I. Youth Organization

A. 4-H Club

1. Membership - general

The enrollment in 4-H Club work in Yuma County totals 469 with 288 girls and 181 boys. Those carrying agriculture projects are as follows:

Beef	50	Sheep	115
Bees	4	Swine	27
Crops	9	Tractor	16
Dairy	7	Crafts	62
Electric	17	Entomology	19
Home Beautification	22		

In the total enrollment there were 925 projects being carried.

This membership is divided into 16 clubs reaching 12 communities. Two communities in Yuma County do not have 4-H Club work, but there is a potential in Ehrenburg and Salome. Several adults in the Ehrenburg area have expressed a desire to assist with the leadership of a 4-H Club. The lack of volunteer leaders is the main reason Salome does not have a 4-H Club program.

3. Citizenship Activities

a. Fairs

(1) Yuma County

To provide the Yuma County 4-H members an opportunity for county-wide exhibit of their project work and to serve as a means of evaluating the work completed, 4-H Club members participate each year in the Yuma County Fair. Approximately 1500 4-H exhibits were on display during the four day Fair.

Local 4-H leaders and 4-H Jr. leaders served as department superintendents and assistants and directed the judging of the exhibits, as well as having assisted with the planning of the Jr. Livestock Show.

With a total enrollment of 469 4-H members and approximately 1500 4-H exhibits at the Fair, this means that each member exhibited an average of three items.

There was a new innovation in the Jr. Livestock show this year. For the first time, Grand Champions were named in beef, sheep and swine. The Jr. Livestock Committee has evaluated the results and at this writing there has been no decision on the continuation of such.

b. Pre-Fairs

To provide 4-H members the opportunity for exhibiting project work on a local basis, to evaluate their accomplishments to date, and to supply them with educational experiences, pre-fairs were held in four areas of the county. These pre-fairs are organized by the local 4-H leaders and 4-H members. The 4-H Agents serve as judges and evaluators. The pre-fairs vary in degree of emphasis on ribbon placings and awards. One area uses the pre-fair as a supervised workday for livestock members and an evaluation day for home ec. members. Three areas pattern the pre-fair after the County Fair by awarding ribbons.

These pre-fairs serve as an excellent teaching tool and in most cases the parents are in attendance with the 4-H member.

c. Summer Camp

To provide the Yuma County 4-H members the experience of learning and fellowship that 4-H Camp offers, a 4-H Camp is held each year.

One hundred and eighteen 4-H members, jr. age, attend 4-H Camp. They learned 4-H information, recreation, songs, and class subjects varying from swimming and nature craft to entomology and folk dancing. They also had their choice of eight crafts.

Seventeen adult 4-H leaders and ten Jr. leaders served on the camp staff as instructors and mesa consultants.

d. Parliamentary Procedure

That it might serve as an incentive to clubs to organize and conduct effective monthly programs during the year, and to provide a group activity for competition, a County 4-H Parliamentary Procedure Contest was held. Members from five 4-H Clubs participated and conducted mock business meetings. Competition was divided in two divisions (determined by the number of members in the club). Local friends of 4-H served as judges. Even though only five clubs out of a total of sixteen participated, it was felt that the contest was a success.

e. Judging

To assist Yuma County 4-H members to develop skills of evaluation, organization of thought and self-confidence, a judging workshop was conducted in December. At this activity all phases of agriculture were covered.

In agriculture one ring was set up in each of two areas: livestock and small ag. The "How's" of judging were taught with the assistance of local 4-H leaders. In the judging workshop, everyone judged in both areas without relation to the project they carried. The basic purpose of the judging workshop was not to test subject matter knowledge, but to give them experience in practicing the placings of rings, organizing their thoughts and giving reasons.

Representation was excellent from most clubs, and the knowledge the youngsters had gained here was most evident at the County Judging Contest in February. Those who attended the judging workshop had the highest scores at this contest.

That 4-H members might further their judging experience and to evaluate their abilities and to select judging teams for 4-H Roundup, the County 4-H Judging Contest was held in February. The Contest was held in Yuma and in Parker so that more members might participate. Both junior and senior members placed rings in electricity, garden, home beautification, and entomology. These rings were set up by agents and local leaders.

The three senior age members having the highest score did further judging work and participated in an elimination contest to determine 4-H Roundup delegates.

Three Yuma County 4-H members were selected to represent Arizona at the National Junior Vegetable Growers Convention in December at Colorado Springs, Colorado. These members took part in the judging, grading, and identification contest. The Yuma County team placed seventh in competition with fourteen teams. One member of the team finished ninth, one member finished twenty-fourth and the other member placed thirtieth in competition with 150 participants. The three team members were sponsored by the Yuma Vegetable Growers and Shippers Association.

#### f. Demonstrations

That Yuma County 4-H members would have the opportunity to participate in demonstrations for their development of skills and themselves as individuals, demonstrations are encouraged as a part of the 4-H Club program. The County Demonstration Contest is used to measure and evaluate. Competition was open to jr. and sr. age members with senior age members being named 4-H Roundup delegates. 4-H leaders directed the program and agents and local leaders served as judges.

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

#### Training

##### A. Specialized

###### 7. Jr. Leader Laboratory

To provide the opportunity for 4-H Jr. leaders to learn the basic fundamentals of teaching, a state 4-H Jr. Leader Lab is held each year. Twelve Jr. leaders

from Yuma County attended and learned techniques in discussion, song leading, recreation, and teaching techniques. These Jr. leaders will now put this information to use in their 4-H Clubs.

A member of the Yuma County staff served as one of the workshop instructors in recreation.

### OUTLOOK

At the present time there are 469 4-H Club members in Yuma County. The total potential is approximately 7,000. While it is not possible to have all 7,000 enrolled in 4-H, the Yuma County enrollment could be higher.

The one factor that would contribute to a higher enrollment in 4-H is leadership. A good recruitment program for local 4-H leaders would not only increase the Yuma County enrollment, but would also increase the quality.

A good look should be taken at the projects that are now being offered. Most of the agricultural projects are not graduated. In other words, a first year club member is doing the same thing as a fifth year club member. More projects should be developed in both Home Ec. and Agriculture that lend themselves to urban club work.

Leader training in the aims and objectives of 4-H Club work has been neglected in the Yuma County 4-H program. More leader training on these points should be emphasized. There should be more use made of local resource people in leader training.

A planned publicity program for telling the 4-H story to the community is needed. Most of the publicity has been given to the 4-H Club member and his animal. The true story of 4-H Club work and what it has to offer should be told.

A good look should be taken at the County Awards Program. What is it doing and where are the awards going? It is a known fact that most of the point money and awards go to livestock members. Other 4-H projects should be made more attractive.

There is no reason why the 4-H Clubs' enrollment in Yuma County should not reach the 1,000 member mark. The highest single factor to this will be leadership.