

MOHAVE COUNTY, ARIZONA

ANNUAL REPORT

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to
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Summary:

Organization

The County Staff consists of one agent.

Relations with the only local organization "Mohave Livestock Association." is excellent.

Horticulture

An estimated seventy five people attended the Pruning Demonstration held last spring near Wikieup and in Kingman. A Horticulture and Floriculture meeting was held and fifty five people were in attendance.

Cotton

The three cotton growers were subjected to a trial planting of desired varieties of Acala cotton which should be better adapted to their type of farming.

Grain and Forage Sorghums

It is estimated that twenty farmers were assisted in the production of grain and forage crops. Varieties, fertilizers, insects, and cultural methods were included in the work.

Livestock, Range Management, and Marketing

Approximately seventy five ranchers were assisted with related problems in their livestock operations.

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I. COUNTY SITUATION

A. General

Mohave County is the fifth largest county in the Continental United States, consisting of over thirteen thousand square miles. There is over one thousand miles of shore-line which bounds the county on the West and separates the county, leaving one-third of the area North of the Grand Canyon. There are two Indian Reservations which have a combined acreage of five hundred fifty nine thousand nine hundred seventy two acres. The Southern two-thirds of the county is criss crossed with four hundred twenty four miles of oiled State, Federal, and County Highways. These highways are U. S. 66 and State Highway 93. The remaining roads are dirt, with a limited amount of improvement. The Northern one-third of the county has only nineteen miles of oiled roads, the rest being only fair weather roads. All in all there are one thousand nine hundred eighty miles of dirt roads in Mohave County. There are one hundred miles of double track railroads crossing Mohave County that go from coast to coast. The communication systems are very limited, as only eight ranchers and farmers have telephones. Mails are alternate day delivery.

The population of Mohave County is approximately eleven thousand people, with over one-third of the total population living in the county seat, namely Kingman. There are one hundred forty ranch and farm families in Mohave County. Most of these live on their farms or ranches in the Southern two-thirds of the county, where, as in the Northern one-third, most live in small communities or adjacent communities out of state. There are ninety two different sub-divisions, some as large as two townships, that are being sold for lots. The streets are graded and one of these sub-divisions has sold eleven thousand lots so far. These areas are being advertised in The Saturday Evening Post, Look, and Life magazines. Daily correspondence is being received from all parts of the United States wanting more information.

Mohave County as a whole is a livestock county with farming second, and mining third in importance.

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I. COUNTY SITUATION (continued)

On the nine thousand six hundred acres of irrigated land the principal crops grown are: Alfalfa, Milo, Cotton, Cereals, Pasture, and Produce. On the four thousand five hundred acres of dry land Wheat and Rye are the principal crops. However, all of this land is not farmed at present. As a whole the farms are small and rather sub-marginal. It is estimated that fifty to sixty thousand acres of the land adjacent to the Colorado River will be developed in the next ten years. Most of this land is river-bottom, with checker boarded Indian and White ownerships.

There are one thousand two hundred children of 4-H age attending schools in the county. Less than two hundred are of Indian or Spanish American descent with Anglos making up the remainder.

The Extension Service has been in the county two years. One agent and secretary make up the force. The agent has spent seven years in the county and the secretary three years.

The organized extension groups include a 4-H Leaders' Council with twelve different 4-H clubs. There is no Farm Bureau, Grange, or Farmer's Union organizations. The Mohave County Cattle Growers' Association is very active, as is the Cow Bells' Organization.

B. 4-H

4-H Club work officially began April 1, 1959, with the start of the Extension Program in Mohave County. Prior to this time some preliminary interest had been stirred up by interested people in the county. This interest was rather erratic and difficult to assess. Many of the youngsters desired to be in 4-H because of the glowing reports of the program, but lacked an appreciation of the scope of the work in any detail.

The general plan is to have community clubs in the smaller outlying communities with project clubs in the town of Kingman. This procedure, for the most part, has been quite satisfactory. We have been disappointed in a couple of instances because of indifferent leaders who did not accept their responsibility to the boys and girls. We have also had a couple of cases where the leaders are truly interested but, the boys and girls, either because of signing up without real interest or else thinking they were getting into too much work, failed to keep attending.

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I. COUNTY SITUATION (continued)

We are pleased to report a very sincere group of leaders who should be able to do a good job when they have a little experience. It must be remembered that only a couple of our leaders have had precious leader experience. Almost all of our leaders are pleased with the 4-H program as presented.

The Fair Board has been very easy to work with and have shown a lot of consideration for us again. It should be pointed out that they furnished the ribbons again this year. The Fair Board paid premiums on first and second place winners in each division this year.

Our facilities at the fair grounds are the same as last year, but have been improved by some remodeling and painting. It is hoped that next year new facilities will be available for the 4-H youth and the open division.

The 4-H program can certainly be a great benefit to the people of Mohave County. Many communities are many miles away from organized recreational and vocational facilities. This county has shown good community interest and with the favorable record this year, next year will be better.

We are fortunate in having in our county an Indian Reservation which has already had some 4-H Club activity. They have shown considerable progress during the last few years and show promise of helping greatly in establishing Mohave County club work.

C. Livestock

Mohave County has as its primary agricultural interest, range cattle operations. There are very few sheep and swine interests to be found. Only a few dairy herds and a few small poultry setups enter into the picture of Mohave County agriculture. Right now, there are also few irrigated farms, though this number is increasing.

The ranchers have generously supported the 4-H program in relation to beef projects. There are good indications of an intense interest in the County Fair.

All of the boys and girls showing livestock have had little previous experience. This has produced some problems which should

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I. COUNTY SITUATION (continued)

be easily overcome in the years to come. It should be noted that most of the boys and girls have earnestly tried to find out what they don't know and put it to work.

D. Home Economics

Our home economics clubs can serve a real purpose here in Mohave County. Many mothers have expressed concern because there are several youth programs for the boys but few for the girls. They were happy to hear about the girls part in our 4-H program.

We have been concerned about a tendency of some clubs to have a rather high drop-out in cooking and clothing. We certainly do hope that this is not a trend to expect in the future.

In conclusion we can say that the 4-H Club program can be an important asset to the community life of Mohave County as shown by the work accomplished the past two years.

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II. ORGANIZATION

Mohave County Extension staff consists of one County Agent. The program is quite new as it has been in the county less than two years. A great deal of time is being spent in introducing the program to the county.

There ~~are~~ no farm organizations other than the Mohave County Cattle Growers' Association and the Cow Bells' Organization. These two groups have been influential in helping get the Extension Program to the people.

The Livestock Association has approximately seventy members and includes practically all of the ranchers South of the Canyon and approximately twenty ranchers North of the Canyon. The President for 1960 was Mr. Jack Rubel who has been very interested in the Extension Program and much of our program planning has gone thru the Mohave County Livestock Association.

The Cow Bells' Organization headed by Mrs. Jack Wilson, has called on the University for assistance in a specialized clothing training meeting. When a Home Demonstration group is organized, the Cow Bells' will probably supply the framework for these groups.

The Mohave County Chamber of Commerce looks to the Extension Service for Agricultural information and are working on an Agricultural Circular to pass on to their inquiries.

From the above it is apparent that Mohave County is open to tremendous growth in organization, and certainly the Extension Service has every opportunity to expand and push an educational program which can eventually reach every resident of Mohave County.

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III. INFORMATION PROGRAM

A. Objectives

The disseminating of timely agricultural information to interested people is the objective of the Information Program. To gain this objective, circular letters, individual letters, personal calls, telephone calls, office calls, farm and ranch visits, local newspapers and radio are used.

B. Facilities and Utilization

1. Newspapers

Mohave County has no daily newspaper. It does have a very excellent weekly, The Mohave County Miner. The editor is Dick Waters, who is extremely interested in the Extension Program and who has gone far beyond his call of duty in giving us more than adequate space each week. Two editorials in his paper have boosted our program on an overall basis and particularly 4-H.

2. Visual Aids

Films have been used in educational meetings with the schools and 4-H clubs. The movie of the 1959 Mohave County Fair has given considerable encouragement to the youth of the county to do a better job in their 4-H projects. This film has been shown to different audiences, hoping to stimulate more interest.

3. Bulletins and Circulars

All of the University bulletins are displayed on a peg board type bulletin board in the County Agent's Office. Many favorable comments have been made on the fact that they are all so well displayed, giving ideas to all visitors in the office.

4. Radio

KAAA, owned and managed by Wally Stone, has done an outstanding job in keeping the public posted, giving radio time for timely programs and offering his assistance in all ways to make Mohave County a better place to live.

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IV. LIVESTOCK

A. Beef Cattle

Implanting of yearlings and sucking calves was planned this year, but due to the buyer resistance it was decided to discontinue this practice until this barrier could be lowered.

The Mohave County Livestock Association was instrumental in the organization of a Marketing Association for the sale of member's marketable livestock. Mohave County was the first to get their association organized and we understand most of the other counties in the state have the same type of organization.

(Further information relating to the Marketing Association can be found in the significant story of extension accomplishments.)

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V. AGRONOMY

A. Grain Sorghum and Hybrids

Grain sorghum varieties and hybrids are a very important part of our type of farming in Mohave County. Grain sorghum varieties and hybrids are used as the first crop after clearing and leveling and can tolerate the leaching type of irrigation used in the salty soils that we have both on the Colorado River and the Big Sandy area.

A pollination trial was planted on the Gordon McKellips farm to ascertain the best time to plant to get plants to pollinate. This planting was not too successful, as the owner lost his water source and the plants didn't grow as they otherwise would have. It is planned to use the same trial for 1961 as the rootstalks will over winter and should do better as the operator is now able to get water to this area.

A grain sorghum variety and hybrid trial was also tried on the Stovall farm operated by Virgil Short on the Sandy. This trial looked fairly well, but no actual yields were obtained.

B. Forage Sorghum

Four forage sorghum varieties and hybrids were planted on the Seapy farm and yielded comparable to a mix that he had planted. No scales were available, but the estimated yield was in excess of twelve tons per acre on all varieties.

C. Corn

A corn variety and hybrid trial was planted on the Virgil Short farm on the Big Sandy. The owner planted Mexican June adjacent to these varieties for a test and it out-yielded the varieties on a picked row basis. Further trial will need be conducted to fully evaluate corn as a crop in this area.

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V. AGRONOMY (continued)

D. Cotton

Cotton is of most importance in the county even though there is less than four hundred total acres allotted in the county.

A cotton variety and fertilizer trial was planted on the Joy farm on the Colorado River. John Vanderslice, the operator, has been most cooperative.

The varieties planted were:

A-44
4-42
44-WR
DPL

Different rates of Nitrogen and Phosphate fertilizers were planned, but rain prohibited the last Nitrogen application. The crop was defoliated the middle of October. The first picking was weighed the first of November with lots of green bolls on the Acala variety.

From the initial weighing the DPL variety weighed more seed cotton than the Acala varieties.

The final picking has not been taken care of to-date as we had to wait for frost to open the bolls that were left.

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VI. 4-H

A. Highlights

4-H in Mohave County has been most successful in its second year.

The 4-H Leader's Council lost its Chairman and Mr. Howard Grounds was elected to this post. Mr. Wesley Bobo is Vice-Chairman and Mrs. D. E. Evans is Secretary and Treasurer. These members gave guidance and leadership to the other twenty leaders and the boys and girls enrolled.

There were two hundred thirty boys and girls enrolled with one hundred fourteen completing their projects.

One hundred and twenty boys and girls attended a 4-H picnic in the Walapai County Park. They invited their friends, families and guests.

Below is a picture of some of the sports that were organized by a Junior Leader, Charlene Evans.



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VI. 4-H (continued)

B. Local 4-H Club Program

The 4-H club program is formulated thru the Leader's Council and the Extension Service. The Leader's Council meets periodically throughout the club year. Each club plans its' own local activities, but follows the Leader's Council plan of activities.

C. 4-H Beef Sale and Show

The 4-H boys and girls, along with the County Agent and leaders, interested the local merchants and store owners in bidding on the calves at the Mohave County Fair. The twenty six calves that were auctioned at the sale were bought by local people for local consumption.

Cudahy Packing Company of Phoenix cooperated in slaughtering thirteen of the calves and returning them to Kingman free of charge while the other thirteen were slaughtered by Howard Grounds.

Al Lane, Extension Livestock Specialist, was the Judge of the Livestock Show.

Below is a picture of a portion of the calves in line for judging.



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VI. 4-H (continued)

D. 4-H Club Fair

The 4-H Fair was held in conjunction with the Mohave County Fair with Burney Johnson as manager. One Hundred and fourteen boys and girls exhibited at the County Fair. Each division was superintended by local 4-H leaders.

Below is a picture of the 4-H boys and girls showing their horse project.



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VI. 4-H (continued)

E. 4-H Achievement Days and Tours

Two clubs held achievement days and a large turnout of parents, leaders, and interested people were on hand to give the boys and girls a boost in their projects.

Below is a picture of a group that attended one of the beef tours.



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VI. 4-H (continued)

F. 4-H Round-Up

Six girls were selected to attend Round-Up at the University of Arizona. They were accompanied by Mrs. Georgana Sullivan, a clothing leader, and Mr. Eugene Ellison, Extension Indian Agent from Valentine and Peach Springs.

Below is a picture of the girls and leader from Mohave County for 1960.



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VI. 4-H (continued)

G. 4-H Beef Buyers Recognition Banquet

All of the beef club members asked their buyers to be their guests at a banquet held in their honor. Fifty five people were in attendance at the Jade Restaurant in honor of this occasion.

Picture below:



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VI. 4-H (continued)

H. Outlook and Recommendations

The outlook for 4-H in Mohave County is bright. There are a number of communities that have potential 4-H clubs and these will be contacted as time permits. The cooking and sewing projects can certainly be strengthened with the aid of a Home Demonstration Agent.

A continued effort should be made to keep the 4-H Program before the public thru individual contacts, mass media, radio and thru group meetings.

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VI. 4-H (continued)

The Mohave County Fair was a real success and the 4-H members exhibited their finished product there. Pictures were again taken by the Information Specialist for making into a film.

The twenty six beef that were sold brought approximately forty cents per pound with the Grand Champion bringing seventy two and a half per pound. The same girl has won the Grand Championship two years in a row.

The picture below shows the Grand Champion fed by Charlotte Isaacs and the Reserve Champion fed by Dick Grounds.



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VI. 4-H (continued)

The following people bought the calves at the auction.

Central Commercial Company
Dunton Motors
Safeway Stores Inc.
Mohave Miner
Jade Restaurant
Dr. A. A. Arnold
Valley National Bank
Texaco Bulk Plant
Grounds Ranches
Old Trails Garage
Byers Shell Station
Grounds Real Estate

Laulo Plumbing
Claude Neal
Everett Isaacs
Ed. Cannon
Wesley Bobo
Ross Webb
Wesley Allen
Charlie Nelson
Walapai Trading Company
Chet Cofer
Kingman Bake Shop
B. & B. Liquor Store

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VII. EXTENSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mohave County is a large county and quite isolated. It is principally a livestock county, with well over one hundred ranches, both large and small. In past years the marketing of salable livestock has been a problem which was recognized by most all, but no one took action to cure the difficulty.

The County Agent and the President of the local Livestock Association had talked over this problem a number of times. After talking to a number of influential people, we decided to do something about the problem. Mr. Rubel, the Livestock Association President, appointed seven men of his Association to dig into the problem. A meeting was held, inviting all appointed members, and as the quest speakers we invited the Livestock Specialist from the University along with the Farm Reporter from the Western Livestock Journal. Around this committee and with the help of the Livestock Specialist and Western Livestock Reporter the Mohave County Livestock Marketing Association was formed.

The County Agent was instructed to mail a questionair and a letter explaining the Association plans and invite all interested ranchers to participate. A very good response was received from this mailing. The information from this questionair was compiled for mailing to the buyers and feeders over the south western part of the United States.

The Livestock Association voted to spend \$500.00 of their funds for advertising in the Livestock Journal and for incidental expenses.

The County Agent was the clearing house for the buyers and ranchers and kept the lists up to date as to who had sold and answered many telephone calls from interested buyers.

Many favorable comments have been received from the buyers, and the ranchers are very happy as thru this association they were able to market their livestock in an orderly fashion.