

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

STATE: ARIZONA

COUNTY: YAVAPAI

REPORT OF:

E. F. THACKER

FROM: DECEMBER 1, 1950

to

MARCH 31, 1951

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HIGHLIGHTS:

The essence of last year's Highlights as written in the agent's 1950 annual report is still applicable at this time. Therefore I will have little to add or change in this report since it covers the relatively short period of from December 1950 to March 1951. It might also be of interest to the reader to know that the atmosphere and surroundings of the writer may be cause for an occasional break in continuity of this report. The last few days of my service here are being spent in a hospital ward and thus necessitates this report to be written while hospitalized.

Since this is the agent's last report I will occasionally refer back to my beginning date here as agent with various phases of our program. This date was August 1, 1948. By so doing I believe it will be more meaningful than if I only reiterated the past four month's activities.

The writer again wishes to take this opportunity to express his appreciation for the fine cooperation and assistance received from the people of Yavapai County, the University of Arizona and Extension staff members.

Special acknowledgment is given Mr. E. S. Turville, County Agent at Large, for his most capable, ardent and loyal support rendered to me and the Extension Service.

FORMATION:

Our information program was continued in a similar manner as last year with emphasis on use being made of our three county newspapers, with talks by the agent at our farm organization meetings and special farm meetings. Material from our information specialist's office was used very advantageously. Special comment in his regard was received by the agent from one of our news editors and one 4-H leader.

It is the opinion of the agent that this phase of our program is not given the attention by many of us that it deserves.

ORGANIZATION:

Much of the agent's time during the period covered by this report was devoted to organizational work as had been done in the past at this time of year. Time consuming activities included annual reports, annual program plan of work, news articles and work with the various farm organizations and governmental agencies as listed below:

Yavapai Cattle Growers association
Yavapai Junior Cattle Growers association
Yavapai Cowbells
Yavapai County Farm Bureau
Chino Valley Farm Bureau
Triangle Farm Bureau
Verde Farm Bureau
Black Canyon Farm Bureau
Yavapai Poultry association
Yavapai 4-H Leaders association
Chino Valley Chamber of Agriculture
Northern Arizona Fair association
P. M. A.
S. C. S.
F. H. A.
Fish & Wildlife Service
Forestry Service
Social Security Administration

RANGE MANAGEMENT:

We gave assistance to the Yavapai Cattle Growers with the planning and detail work for their annual meeting held in Prescott on March 3rd. Officers elected for the coming year are as follows:

President, Carl G. Rees, Chino Valley
Vice-President, Kenneth Wingfield, Rimrock
Secretary, J. J. Coughlin, Peoples Valley
Treasurer, Ralph Hooker, Prescott

This organization continues to be a very active group with a large representation of our cattlemen taking an active part. It serves as an excellent media for the agent to work with and keep in contact with their various problems. County meetings are held eight or ten times annually. The agent has always assisted with their meetings which normally included a business session, guest speaker or some other special feature and a dinner. One dinner-dance, a picnic and a barbecue is held annually.

Through field, office, telephone, press and correspondence the agent furnished information to the rancher on numerous miscellaneous topics. Some of the more frequent inquiries during the past four months were as follows: Coyote poisoning, supplemental feeds, range reseeding, common cattle diseases, National cattlemen's meeting, Phoenix Stock Show, State Cattle Growers Convention and stock markets.

Efforts were continued to promote the Yavapai Junior Cattle Growers association. The agent prepared and mailed letters to our cattlemen concerning this group. The idea being was to stimulate more interest with the Seniors in behalf of the Junior association. (See attached letters) The agent also spoke briefly at the Senior's' annual meeting as a follow-up on the letters that had previously been mailed to them.

Mr. John Cooper of Wagoner is presently serving as advisor for this Junior group. Mr. Cooper was also elected president of the National Junior Cattle Growers association. He was elected at their annual meeting held in San Francisco this last January. Officers of our local group that were elected for the coming year are as follows:

President, Pat McLernon, Prescott
Vice President, Patsy Olea, Phoenix
Secretary, Dorothy Sipes, Prescott
Treasurer, Sue Fain, Dewey

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF ARIZONA
—
PRESCOTT

OF ARIZONA
AGRICULTURE
MENT OF AGRICULTURE
COUNTY COOPERATING

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SEF
HOME DEMONSTRATION WO
COUNTY AGENT WORK

February 7, 1951

Dear Yavapai Cattleman:

Are we neglecting our greatest asset? This is a question that has been asked by a few of us during recent months. The question concerned is "Our Juniors."

After discussing this with some interested parties there seems to be no doubt that we have been neglecting our Juniors during recent months. They should be playing a more important role than has recently been the case. The present advisors have made an honest effort to assist the Junior association but they have failed to attain several of their goals. Any group or association must have proper cooperation of the majority of those concerned if continued success is to be expected.

Our "Juniors" are the Seniors of tomorrow. With little thought th should be convincing that they are our greatest asset of today.

Lack of attendance at their last three meetings has been the reason for not carrying out some interesting programs as planned. If this is not corrected by next meeting time, which will be their annual election of officers, they will be forced to go on an inactive sta

We are honored by having John Cooper, a local boy, as newly electe president of the National Junior Cattlemen's Association. This in itself should be an inspiration to make our Yavapai Juniors the ou standing group in our country. Furthermore, I feel that we owe such cooperation to John.

You as a parent and/or a Senior can make a difficult job as a Juni advisor much easier by giving the Juniors just a little more of yo personal attention. First, the association must have attendance. Why not you personally pledge to encourage at least one Junior to attend their next meeting scheduled for March 3rd at Prescott.

This letter may impress you as though the Yavapai Junior Cattle Growers association has not done anything the past year. This is not true, as their group has accomplished some very worthwhile work during that time, but the work has been done by entirely too few.

Constructive criticism and comments that might be helpful will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

E. F. Thacker
E. F. Thacker

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

EFT:P

HORTICULTURE:

Although horticulture in Yavapai County is economically relatively unimportant, both farmers and horticulturists have required a great deal of the agent's time with various phases of gardening, truck farming and orchards. Here in Yavapai we have a large number of subsistence farms and with this type of farm, gardening, truck farming and home orchards play an important role in their family economy.

Problems in this field of apparent most significance that have continually warranted the agent's attention are listed as follows:

1. Insects
 - a. Corn ear worms
 - b. Woolly apple aphid
 - c. Codling moth
 - d. Mexican bean beetle
 - e. Beet leaf hopper
2. Plant Diseases
 - a. Texas root rot
 - b. Die-back of apple trees
 - c. Tip-burn of lettuce
3. Marketing
4. Chlorosis (particularly in all types of deciduous fruits and grapes)

Circular letters dealing with orchard sprays as prepared by Dr. J. N. Roney were mailed by this office to our regular mailing list.

The agent made recommendations for a clean-up program of the shade trees on the County Court House plaza. These trees were badly infected with the Elm Scale which had caused the loss of six trees during the last year. Due to the extreme height of these trees it was determined not practicable to do a satisfactory spray job because of the equipment that would be required. It was recommended that these trees be topped back to a height whereby they could be thoroughly sprayed with conventional spray equipment and thereby eradicating the scale. Volck oil was the material recommended to be used as a spray. This project was completed last month in accordance with the

recommendations. In addition to this, assistance was given the County Supervisors with recommendations for landscape work concerning the establishment of other varieties of shade trees, evergreens and ornamentals for the plaza.

The agent presented a talk to the Prescott Garden Club at their regular meeting during the month of February. "Insects and the Home Garden" was the topic for my talk.

One pruning demonstration of deciduous fruit trees was held by the agent in the Kirkland area. It was the intention of the agent to conduct public pruning demonstrations throughout the county once every two years. However, popular demand as result of not having these demonstrations this year was convincing that they would be warranted annually.

Two days were spent in the field with Mr. H. F. Tate, Horticultural Specialist. One-half day of this time was devoted to work in our result demonstration plot at the Mark Barker farm at Cottonwood. This plot consists of thirty fruit trees which is a combination variety, pruning and Texas root rot test. This plot was established two years ago and it is the opinion of the writer that there should be more of this type work carried on in the field. This demonstration should continue to prove to be of immeasurable value, five, ten or even twenty-five years from now.

4-H:

We have seen much growth and interest in our county 4-H program during the past two and one-half years. This condition continues to be present although the agent has always felt that much more time should be devoted by both County and State Extension office workers if we are to expect to maintain this favorable status in club work for Yavapai County. The writer normally has not devoted more than about one-fourth of his time to this program and many months he has been forced to neglect some phases of the 4-H work which would have made it possible for our program to have progressed at a more rapid pace.

Four-H activities during the past four months in addition to regular club and farm visits with which the agent has assisted were as follows:

- National 4-H club week
- County 4-H Leaders meeting
- 4-H division of the Phoenix Stock Show
- Camp Verde annual 4-H amateur show
- Brown and Bigelow 4-H calendar sales

FIELD CROPS:

Field test work presently established and to be followed up are as follows:

1. Clover seed production (Ladino and Kenland plots on the Gil Bisjak farm of Chino Valley). See last year's annual report for detailed account of this work.
2. Alfalfa variety test (Buffalo). See last year's annual report.

Result of corn fertilizer test plots conducted on the Harold J. Ridley farm of Chino Valley completed in December in cooperation with Mr. Logan Brimhall, Assistant Agriculture Chemist, are reported on the attached sheet.

Irrigated pastures continue to gain popularity with both the farmer and rancher. Black Medic clover has shown a great deal of promise in our pasture mixes and some farmers have become so favorably impressed with this clover during the last three years that they are establishing pastures with this clover in preference to using any of the recommended mixtures.

Corn Fertilizer Test Plots
 Farm - H. J. Ridley
 Address - Chino Valley

Established May 31st as side-dress application one day after planting.

Harvested December 20, 1950

Each plot 4 rows 100' long

Two center rows harvested for yield data

Each plot duplicated 4 times.

<u>Plot #</u>	<u>Rate per A</u>	<u>Yield lbs.</u>	<u>% increase over check</u>
1	= 50# N	122.8	23
2	= 100# N	133.0	33 -
3	= 50# P ₂ O ₅	111.6	12
4	= 100# P ₂ O ₅	118.5	19
5	= 50# N plus 50# P ₂ O ₅	133.3	34 -
6	= 50# N plus 100# P ₂ O ₅	132.3	33
7	= 100# N plus 50# P ₂ O ₅	111.0	11
8	= 100# plus 100# P ₂ O ₅	136.4	37
9	= Check	99.4	

SOIL ANALYSIS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>TSS</u>	<u>PO₄</u>	<u>NO₃</u>
Center of plots	1st ft.	390	5	14
North end of plots	1st ft.	455	6	30

Agent classes soil as a sandy clay loam. Cropping history: Pinto beans and small grains the past three years. No commercial fertilizers previously applied during past three years.

Summary: Check yields very low. Climatic conditions were unfavorable for the growth of corn. At current prices of these fertilizers under these conditions, the results obtained does show that it would be very profitable to use any of the above fertilizers on corn on this field.

However, if check yields were average or above and same percentage of increase in yield from fertilizers could be obtained, we could expect profitable returns from applications as in plot #2 and #5.

SOILS AND IRRIGATION:

Progress with direct work concerning this project seems to be relatively slow. It has been the experience of the writer that work in this field is generally better accepted and more progress made when associated indirectly with some other project. For example, the farmer is generally more interested and receptive when talking in terms of soils or irrigation as related to crop rotations, fertilizers, conservation or some phase in which he can expect to see a more immediate result. Many of our long time soils and irrigation projects that seem to be an apparent necessity should be associated with other phases of our agriculture if we are to expect favorable progress and cooperation in this regard with the farmer.

General recommendations and assistance to the farmer with soil and water analyses are given as routine work in conjunction with overall farm plan programs.

POULTRY:

The poultry industry in Yavapai County has continually played a more and more important place in our agriculture since my coming here in August 1948. The anticipation of this condition by the agent prompted him to organize a Poultry Association. With the assistance of Mr. VanSant, Poultry Specialist, and the cooperation of our poultrymen we were able to form a county association in January 1949. This association has served to promote their industry and facilitated the agent's work with them. The agent has worked closely with this group and they continue to be very active and holding regular monthly meetings. The agent is frequently called upon to participate in their programs and they often times have educational movies and guest speakers as a part of their regular program.

In addition to the agent's work in connection with this association during the last four months and miscellaneous topics of a routine nature, the agent gave assistance to the poultrymen on the following topics:

1. Culling
2. Disease Control
 - a. Newcastle
 - b. Bronchitis
3. Marketing
 - a. Old hens
 - b. Eggs
4. Publicity via editorials in cooperation with Roland Hartman, editor of "Pacific Poultrymen" and Harry Embleton, Head Poultry Department, University of Arizona.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Without planning, much of the agent 's time is devoted to this project. The topics under this heading are always numerous for any one month and usually many new and different subjects often times least unexpectedly arise and seem to be a necessity in the conduct of any regular month's work.

During the past four months the three topics of most significance with which the agent devoted considerable time were as follows:

1. Social Security
(a) Talks presented by the agent at farm group meetings and arranging for same as given by our local Security officer. The passage of our new Social Security Act was cause for educating the farmers on this topic.
2. The agent made arrangements for and presented the popular agricultural movie "Waves of Green" in three of our farm communities with a total attendance of one hundred and eighty-five.
3. Farm Bureau
Although the Farm Bureau is listed as a miscellaneous topic, this organization is very active in the county with a total membership of one hundred forty-eight active members comprising four locals and a county organization. The agent is frequently called upon to present a program at their various meetings and he is frequently requested to participate with their program planning.

The following is a list of a few of the miscellaneous subjects about which the agent has furnished information during the past four months:

Farm loans
College sholarships
Lend values
Whitewash mix
County Fair
Rodent control
Arizona Feed Law
Employment
G. I. Farm Training

Eradication of trees
Farm Leases
Boy Scouts
Electric Calf Dehorner
State Land Leases

The above is of course only a partial list and itemized here merely to give the reader some idea as to the scope of endless miscellaneous information requested of the agent.