

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF

William M. Brechan

Assistant County Agricultural Agent

Pinal County

Arizona

December 1, 1946 to November 30, 1947

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PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA

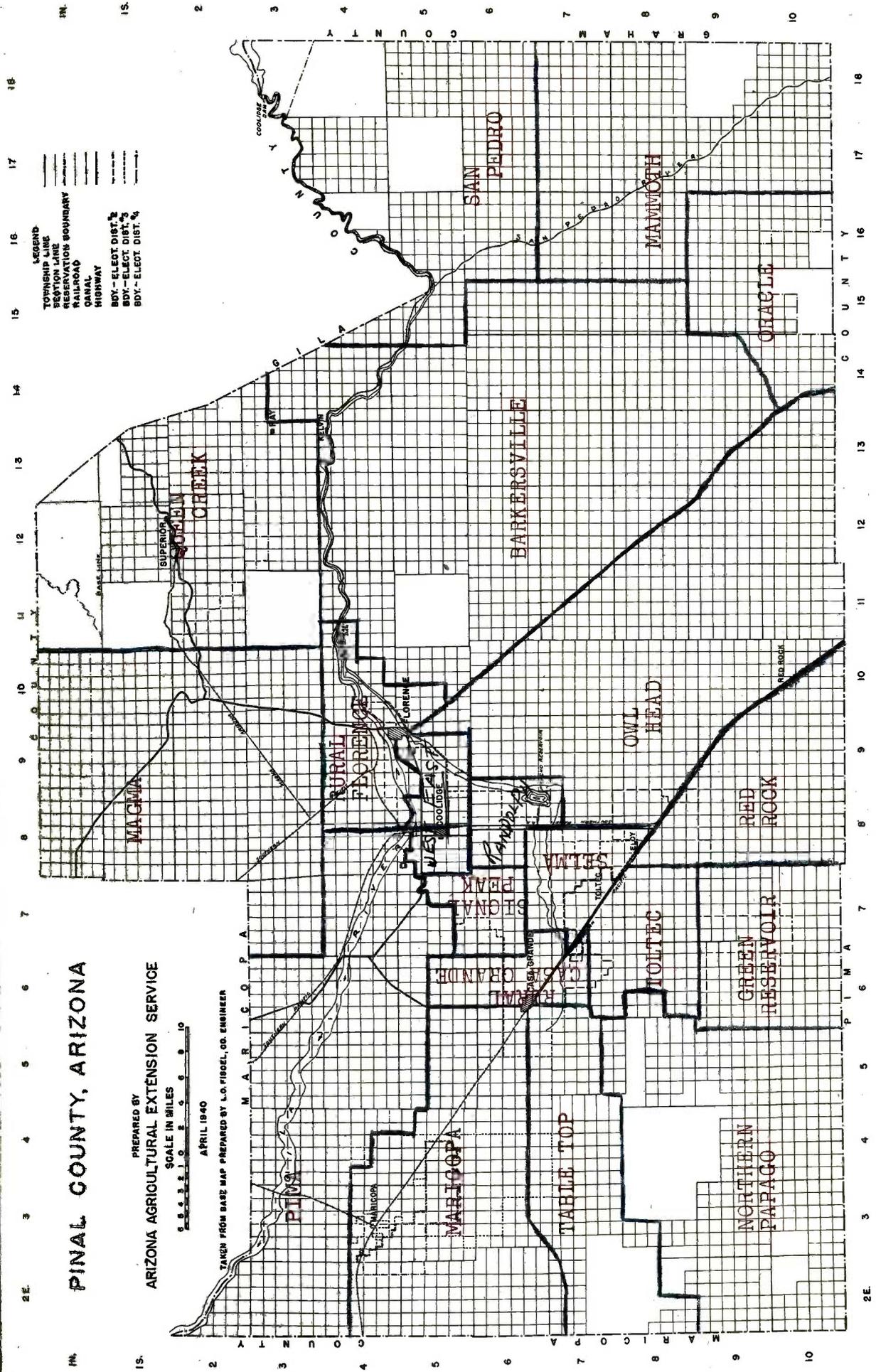
PREPARED BY
ARIZONA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

SCALE IN MILES



APRIL 1940

TAKEN FROM BASE MAP PREPARED BY L.O. FISSEL, C.E. ENGINEER



Map showing division of county into communities for Neighborhood Leadership Plan

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III - NARRATIVE SUMMARY

The work of the assistant county agent of Pinal County is divided into two classes-- organizing and conducting 4-H work and carrying out general work in agriculture.

During the twelve months the assistant agent was on duty this year 143½ days were given over to 4-H club work and 136½ days to other agriculture work.

The assistant agent spent 131 days in the office and 149 days in the field during this year. There were 185 farm and home visits made to 137 different farms and homes. 128 telephone calls were made and 599 office calls were made to see the assistant agent. There were 80 articles written by the assistant agent that appeared in local papers and approximately 1500 bulletins were distributed to interested personnel.

Enrollments in 4-H work for the 1946-47 club year were all in the county office by December 15, 1946. There were 155 boys and 202 girls enrolled in both Home Economic and Agriculture clubs. This was about a 300% increase over the 1945-46 club year. The assistant agent was required to carry out all the girls club work this year since our county did not have a Home Demonstration Agent. Of the 357 boys and girls enrolled, 226 completed and of the 361 projects started, 230 were completed.

The different projects started this year were Garden, Poultry, Dairy, Beef, Swine, Rabbits, Handicraft, and Clothing.

Clubs were organized this year in the following schools: Florence Grammar, Kenilworth, Red Rock, Picaño, 11 Mile Corner, and Casa Grande Southside Grammar. Out-of-school clubs were located in Florence and Casa Grande.

The 11th Annual Pinal County 4-H Club Fair was held on March 29, 1947, at Kenilworth School near Coolidge. The fair was much larger than the previous year. All 4-H clubs in Pinal County participated and a total of 230 exhibitors exhibited 547 separate exhibits. There were 13

girls demonstration teams and 2 boys demonstration teams. Approximately 1500 people visited the fair. Cash awards were given this year for the first time and proved very successful. Also free trips to the State 4-H Round Up were given to all county winners.

A public auction sale for fat stock, beef and hogs, was held on Saturday afternoon, March 29, 1947. This was the first such sale held in this county and it proved very successful. This will be an annual affair at all future Pinal County 4-H Club Fairs.

The women's Clubs of this valley, under the guidance of the assistant county agent, sponsored the 2nd Annual Pinal County Flower Show that was held in conjunction with the 4-H Fair. The show was about the same as last year and was pronounced a success. The date was about ten days too early to get the best flowers in this county.

The State 4-H Round Up was held on the campus of the University of Arizona on June 1, 2, 3, and 4. Pinal County sent a delegation of seventeen 4-H members and three leaders to this event. The Round Up was quite successful but the arranged program had several faults.

The State 4-H Club Camp was held at Camp Geronimo near Payson this year from July 19 to 26, 1947. This county sent twenty-eight boys and girls and two leaders and two staff members to the camp. A very successful camp was held and a very good program was worked out for the 4-H members. This years camp was much improved over the 1946 camp. The 4-H clubs in Arizona, however, are still very much in need of a better camp for their summer encampment. Each year more friction between the Boy Scouts and Extension Staff appears. It is hoped we can have a camp of our own some day but until that time we will endeavor to find a camp and rent it and staff it with our own personnell. Several new camp prospects are in the making for the 1948 camp.

The assistant agent conducted the summer program on Control of Sucking Cotton Insects. Many fields were checked weekly for injurious insects and accurate records were kept. Weekly reports were sent to our Extension Entomologist. Many farmers were advised on cotton insect control. This program ran from June 1 to September 1.

The growing of sorghum under the Arizona Crop Improvement Association was handled completely this year by the assistant agent. Approximately 5000 acres were planted but only 4056 acres were passed. Most of the difference was not planted because of water shortage and the remainder was planted but burned up in the field due to lack of water.

Other agricultural work carried on by the assistant agent during the year was not a completely outlined program. The work included 44 days on Cooperative Agricultural Planning; 75 days on Crop Production; 72 days on Livestock Production; 4 days Conservation of Natural Resources; 9 days on Farm Management; 2 days on General Economic Problems Related to Agriculture; and 74 days on Miscellaneous work.

IV - 4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION

A - METHODS EMPLOYED

Club work in Pinal County is gradually on an upward trend and, with the methods of organization we are compelled to use, this gradual climb can be considered quite satisfactory. Club work is still chiefly done in the schools. With families living so far apart and the type of farming being done by the Casa Grande valley farmers, it makes after school and week-end meetings very hard, if not impossible. We feel by keeping these school clubs going and very active, we can gradually convince the parent the real importance of club work. When that time comes we can then have our out-of-school clubs which will see better work done by the 4-H'ers and far more support and interest will prevail among the business concerns of this valley. There were two out-of-school clubs this year and the work done by these two clubs was far more than all the other clubs combined.

B - LEADERS

Leaders were again chiefly teachers this year. There were six lay leaders which is an increase of 100% over 1946. School clubs most always have teachers as their leaders. With the present set-up in our schools, that is, extremely over crowded conditions and shortage of teachers, it is very difficult to get enough time in the school schedule to carry out good club work. The teachers are so overworked that it is also very difficult to find one that will take enough interest in an extra activity such as club work to give it the required time necessary for satisfactory club work. Leader training meetings are difficult to arrange so it will suit everyone. Two such meetings were held this year. The second one was broken into two one-day schools and each being held in a different part of the county. This appears to be the solution, at least for the present, for our leader training meeting.

C - GOALS

The first and most important goal of the assistant agent is to increase 4-H enrollments, especially in Livestock, Poultry, Crops, and

Garden Projects. Our largest enrollment at present is Handicraft. Quality and not quantity will be stressed while trying to attain this goal.

A second goal is to find and train more and better leaders for out of school clubs. This can only be done very gradually but it is a goal we should always have at the top of our list. Outstanding leadership awards will be given next year and this may help our leadership problem.

Good club work can not be done by the 4-H'er if the parent isn't 100% behind him. Therefore, education of the parents in 4-H work is another goal that must always be kept on top of our goal list. Project visits, publicity of individual 4-H members, and worth while club activities are all of equal importance in attaining this goal.

More judging teams in all classes of Agricultural clubs will be stressed very much next year. Demonstration teams will also be stressed for the county fair. Each club is required to have at least one demonstration team at the fair next April.

A smoother running 4-H County Fair is a goal for the 12th Annual Pinal County 4-H Fair on April 2 and 3. A two day fair is being held for this reason. More demonstration teams, Judging teams and adult activities are going to be arranged for this next fair. A more impressive 4-H award assembly is also going to be arranged.

A large turn out for the State 4-H Round Up for 1948 is a goal of great importance. It will be the goal of the assistant agent to have someone from Pinal County competing in every event at the Round Up. Trips to the Round Up will be free to the winners and the event is one of the events that will do a lot in educating the parent in club work by wide-spread publicity.

The last goal in club work will be to get a large delegation of 4-H'ers to attend the State 4-H Camp. The state camp does very much in "selling" the 4-H'er and their parents to club work. Last years 28 members who attended have done a great deal in stimulating club work this summer and fall.

D - RESULTS

Enrollments completed in club work for 1946-47 were 83 boys and 96 girls in first year work; 7 boys and 21 girls in second year work; 3 boys and 10 girls in third year work; and 2 boys and 4 girls in fourth year work. The total is 95 boys and 131 girls who completed club work from 257 that enrolled.

V - PROJECTS

A - IMPROVED COTTON IRRIGATION

The extreme shortage of water in the valley and unusual amount of wind during the early part of the cotton season caused many farmers to visit the office for advise on conserving irrigation water. Our only recommendation was to mulch the ground by cultivation as soon as possible after irrigation. Discouragement was given farmers who favored holding water off their cotton for later irrigation when the cotton was in need of water then.

B - IMPROVED CONDITIONS OF TIGHT SOILS

Several farmers called on the assistant agent for advise of improving tight soils. In the eastern part of the county along the San Pedro River it was recommended to use barnyard fertilizer and gypsum along with growing legumes. Gypsum is quite cheap in the area as it is mined there. Farmers in the valley area with tight soil condition was told to sub-soil which will break the ground underneath, barnyard manure was also recommended.

C - 4-H CLUB WORK

1. Livestock (Beef, Dairy, Swine)

This year there were 6 dairy, 7 beef, and 6 swine projects started and 5 dairy, 6 beef, and 5 swine projects completed.

There were livestock judging teams trained this year that competed in the following events: Beef Judging Team at State Fair 1946 and won first place; Beef Judging Team at Livestock Show in Tucson won second place; and Livestock Judging Team at Round Up that won second place.

2. Poultry and Rabbits

There were ten poultry projects started and eight completed and nine rabbit projects started and nine completed. Our rabbit projects are still below average especially in the breed of rabbit owned. The type of members carrying these projects are usually the transient type of family and they are uninterested in having a good breed of rabbit.

3. Garden

There were only two garden projects started this year and both completed. These projects involved about one acre of ground. Water shortage in the area has about eliminated garden projects for the present.

4. Handicraft Projects

There were 121 handicraft projects started and only 66 completed. School clubs were mostly all handicraft projects. Shortage of good lumber limited the articles to be made but it is hoped this year more good lumber will be available and more useful projects can be made.

5. Clothing

There were 200 girls enrolled in clothing and 129 completed. There was no home demonstration agent in this county so the assistant agent carried on girls work. There were approximately 185 garments made and 10 garments remade by these 4-H'ers. Most girls were first year clothing members.

D - SEED IMPROVEMENT

The assistant agent discussed the Arizona Crop Improvement Association Rules and Regulations with several cotton growers in the early part of 1947. Only one farmer planted cotton under this program but some unexpected cool nights prevented him from getting a stand so he replanted to regular cotton.

The assistant agent was in complete charge of registering growers for sorghum under the pure seed program. Approximately 5,000 acres were

registered. The first inspection by George Busey, Secretary for Arizona Crop Improvement Association, and the assistant agent revealed only about 4,400 acres were planted. The other had been abandoned because of no water. The second and final inspection found only 4,056 acres had come through and was passed. Some acreages burned up after about half grown because of no water. Only one field of 72 acres was rejected because of Johnson grass infestation.

The 318 acres of early hegari planted showed extreme variation in height and caused some concern as to its purity. An investigation through the Agronomy Department revealed that this was only typical as far as they knew. Further research is being carried on by this department, however, to see if there is any real cause for this variation in growth.

E - RODENT CONTROL

A small scale rabbit control program was carried on by the assistant agent in the spring. Jack rabbits were causing severe damage to spotted areas on young cotton. Control measures and poison was given the farmers. A large kill of rabbits resulted and further control was unnecessary.

F - FEEDING LIVESTOCK

The assistant agent spent considerable time this year observing and reading on different methods and kinds of livestock feeding. Mr. Walter Armer, Animal Husbandman, and the assistant agent worked out rations for 4-H boys and girls feeding beef as a project. Range and large scale pen feeding was studied quite thoroughly by visiting and interviewing ranchers doing this type of livestock feeding.

G - LANDLEVELLING AND PREPARATION

During the preparation of land for cotton planting, many farmers visited this office and discussed means of preparing and levelling their land the best way to conserve water. Conservation of water is becoming more of a factor each year in this county.

H - AGRICULTURE SURVEY PINAL COUNTY

Considerable amount of Agricultural Survey of Pinal County was done by the assistant agent this year. It has been found that an assistant agent must have first hand information on the acreages of different crops being grown in the county. Many visitors and business people come to this office and ask for this information.

The assistant agent surveyed the range conditions in the southern and eastern part of the county this year both for amount of cattle and amount of grazing available.

I - POULTRY FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT

During this year the assistant agent has had inquiries from many poultrymen on poultry feeding, management, disease, judging, and buying. Ralph Van Sant, Poultry Specialist, has been consulted several times. Most, inquiries, however, were handled in this office.

Three poultrymen from other states visited the assistant agent this year and had a lengthy discussion on the prospects of starting a poultry ranch in this county. The assistant agent was very conservative in his information and made no commitments. The fact that high prices for poultry products did not necessarily mean a high net income was explained very carefully to the interested poultrymen.

Considerable practice was secured this year on pollorum testing and coponizing of poultry. The assistant agent helped some poultrymen in doing this.

J - PLANT DISEASES AND INSECT CONTROL

Control of garden and flower diseases and insects has required considerable time this year. The assistant agent called on Dr. J. N. Roney, Extension Entomologist, several times for information. The assistant agent has tried to stimulate flowers in this county more by having a public flower show each year at the 4-H County Fair.

The grasshopper Control program did not

amount to too much this year as the commercial insecticide companies did most of the work. This office did have its mixing station at Coolidge again this year and several thousands pounds of mix was issued. The grasshopper infestation was again very "spotty".

The assistant agent again carried on a very extensive cotton insect control program. About 25 fields were located throughout the county and checked weekly for injurious cotton insects. These results were recorded and weekly summaries were sent to Dr. Roney who would consolidate all other county reports into a state report. A large number of other fields were checked by the assistant agent. The insects were quite high in numbers the first part of the summer. An unusual amount of wind during the first part of the summer prevented farmers from dusting. This wind continued until the middle of July. Dusting started at this time on a very large scale and continued until the first part of September. The dusting was composed mostly of 5% DDT and some used 10% DDT whenever Stink Bugs were present. Several new dusts were used mostly for experimental purposes but to date their price prohibits their use by the farmer. Most farmers with a high insect count used some type of dust for control measures but a few are still of the opinion that dusting does no good. These fields were checked later in the season by the agent and the insect damage was very high.

K - MISCELLANEOUS

1. Farm Labor Program

Throughout the year the assistant agent was called on to help out on different parts of the farm labor program. Many farmers were helped in finding employees. Many letters from out of state workers were answered by the assistant agent.

2. Conferences

The assistant agent attended four conferences this year; Annual Conference, 4-H Conference, Soil School, and Southern Agents Conference. The Soils School and 4-H Conference were the two outstanding. The assistant agent believes more work

was accomplished in 4-H planning at the 4-H Conference than has ever been done before in Arizona. The standards that were set up for the state will definitely improve the state 4-H program. The Soils School was another conference that very much worthwhile information was brought home by the county agents.

3. Radio Broadcasts

Since early this year the county agents office has been responsible for a monthly radio broadcast over Station K O Y on Ernie Douglas' Dinner Bell Program. The assistant agent has given seven of these broadcasts. 4-H work and the agricultural situation in Pinal County were discussed on these programs.

VI - PLAN OF WORK FOR 1948

- December - Attend National 4-H Club Congress.
Attend Annual Extension Conference.
Visit 4-H Projects.
- January - Train Junior and Senior Beef Judging
teams for Livestock Show. Start work
on 4-H Demonstration for County 4-H Fair.
- February - Attend Livestock Show. Start preparing
4-H Fair book.
- March - Mail 4-H Fair Book. Get all 4-H Clubs
up to date on their projects. Line
up buyers for Fat Beef Auction Sale
at County 4-H Fair.
- April - Hold 12th Annual Pinal County 4-H Fair.
Hold achievement days for all 4-H Clubs.
- May - Work with County 4-H Winners in prep-
aration of 4-H Round Up.
- June - Attend 4-H Round Up. Work on 4-H Camp
Enrollment.
- July - Attend 4-H Camp. Start work on cotton
insect control program and pure seed work.
- August - Cotton Insect Control work.
- September - Cotton Insect Control. Start Fall 4-H
program.
- October - Start organizing 4-H Clubs.
- November - Train Judging teams for State Fair.
Conclude all 4-H organization.

VII - STATEMENT CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE ASSISTANT
COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

The work of the assistant county agent is primarily carrying out 4-H work in Pinal County. 4-H work starts early fall and is concluded in late spring. Most clubs to-date are school clubs, however, more out-of-school clubs were organized during 1946-47 than 1945-46.

4-H Club work is organized for boys and girls between the ages of 10-21 years. The minimum number of club members required for a club is five and they must carry their projects for a period of five months or more. The deadline for fall club enrollments is November 1 and for summer club enrollments is May 1. All completed enrollments must be in the state office by May 1 for fall clubs and October 1 for summer clubs. Minimum requirements for each club project was set up this year and it appears a bigger and better completed enrollment will result.

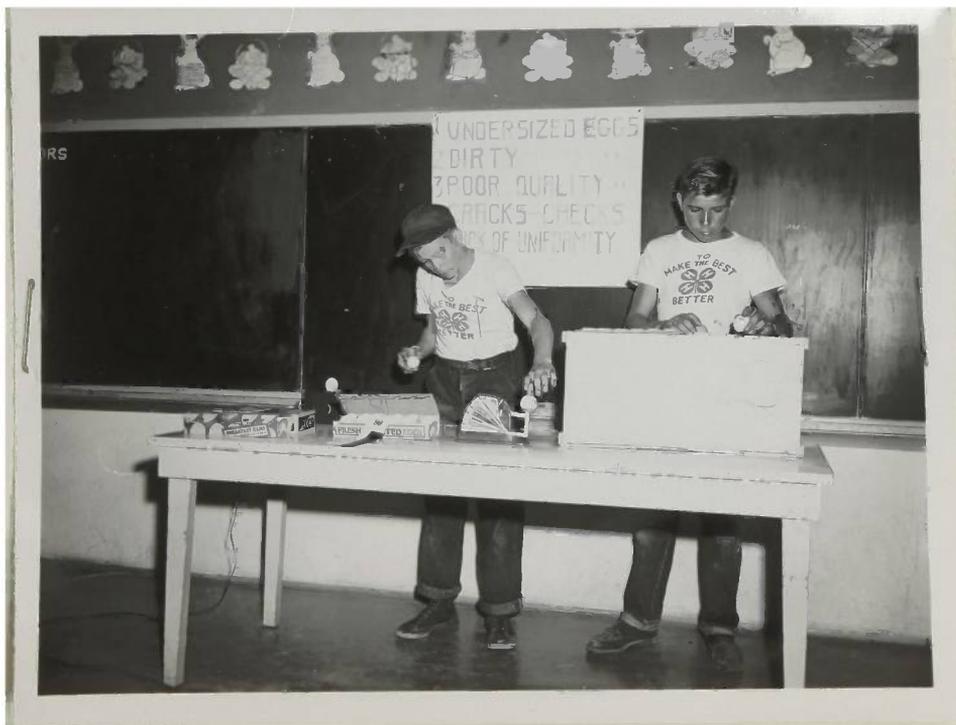
When the assistant county agent has time he carries on other agricultural work. This year the Pure Seed Program and the Cotton Insect Program was completely carried out by the assistant agent.

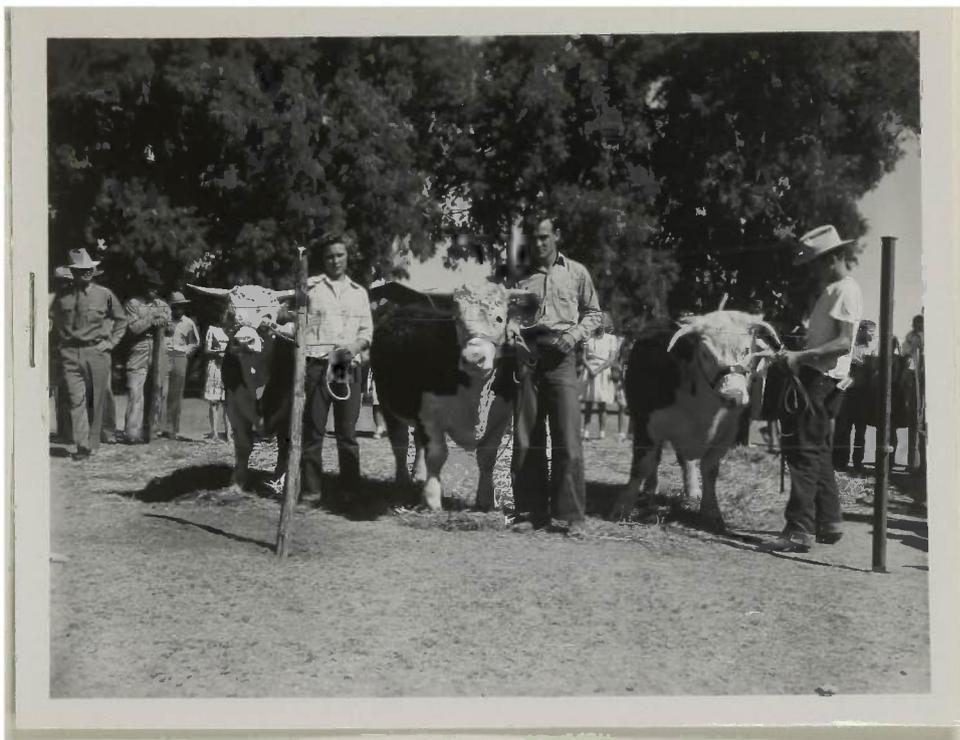
The assistant agent carried all the girls 4-H

club work this year since no home demonstration agent was available to the county. With both Agriculture and Home Economics 4-H work very little spare time was available to carry out other agricultural work in this office.



Above: County and State champion Junior Clothing Demonstration team from Casa Grande. Mary Ellen Bennett on the left and Mary Lou Henness on right. Below: County Champion Poultry Demonstration team from Casa Grande. Dean Hassen on the left and Bill Garrett on the right.





Above: Beef Cattle Judging at County 4-H Fair. Left to right, Lucille Wells, Jim Gamble and John Colvin.
Below: Glen King of Casa Grande with his two fat hogs at the County 4-H Fair.





Above: Dorthea Van Horn of Casa Grande with her first prize Holstein heifer at the 4-H County Fair.
Below: Ralph Van Sant, Poultry Specialist, judging poultry at County 4-H Club Fair.





Above: A portion of the clothing exhibit at the County 4-H Fair.
Below: A portion of the Handicraft exhibits at the County 4-H Fair.





Above: A portion of the Food Preparation and Food Preservation and also Garden Exhibit at the County 4-H Fair.

Below: A portion of the flower exhibits at the 2nd Annual Pinal County Flower Show.

