

A N N U A L
N A R R A T I V E - R E P O R T
FOR
GILA COUNTY

December 1, 1954 - November 30, 1955

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County Agricultural Agent

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GILA COUNTY

1955

4-H Clubs

Three 4-H Clubs were organized with a total membership of fifteen girls and four boys. Thirteen members completed 13 foods projects.

HorticultureA. Decidious Fruit

Pruning demonstrations and educational meetings were held in all fruit producing areas of the county. A fire blight control project was started this year. Two fruit tree grafting demonstrations were held. The Codling Moth control demonstration was continued at Gisela.

B. Home Gardens

Farmers and other rural residents were encouraged to plant and raise better gardens to improve their diets and reduce living costs. New sweet corn varieties were tested at Pine. Control of nematodes in gardens was started by using Dow W-40. A nematode survey was made by the United States Department of Agriculture and Extension Service Plant Pathologists.

C. Home Beautification

Six meetings were held with homemakers clubs and other groups to help improve yards and ornamental plantings. The Tent Caterpillar control program in Globe was continued this year. A Slug Caterpillar control program was started in the Globe-Miami area this year. A large number of home visits, office calls and telephone calls were made to help home owners with Home Beautification problems.

Livestock

An active Cattle Growers' Association was maintained this year. A drought relief program was carried on this spring. A spring and fall cattle listing service was maintained for livestock owners. Supplemental feeding and control of parasites and diseases was stressed.

Agronomy

Two Hybrid Corn Test Plots were established to test new hybrid corns.

Fairs

A County Fair was held at Young.

An agricultural exhibit was sent to the State Fair.

The agent judged the agriculture exhibits at two County Fairs and the White River Indian Fair.

Home Economics

Organized a Homemakers Council.

Maintained five homemakers clubs with a membership of 175.

Held 41 meetings with a total attendance of 791 to carry on the homemakers program.

Statistics

369	Farm & home visits
667	Office calls
331	Telephone calls
68	Adult meetings with attendance of 2705
10	4-H Club meetings with attendance of 603
8	Other meetings with attendance of 172
1516	Bulletins distributed
8147	Miles traveled to carry on Extension program in county.

I. SITUATION

There are approximately 3,000,000 acres of land in Gila County devoted to the production of range beef cattle, 2,000 acres of irrigated farm land and about 3,500 of dry farm land that is planted in favorable years.

The production of hereford feeder and stocker cattle is the main agricultural industry in the county. There are about 30,000 grown cattle maintained on the ranches and Indian Reservations. Practically all of the cattle produced in the county are shipped to other areas for finishing and marketing. The principle crops in the county are corn, alfalfa, grain sorghums and grain hay. Practically all of the crops produced in the county are consumed on the same farm or adjacent ranches. Some deciduous fruit is grown and marketed locally.

As there is no Home Demonstration Agent in Gila County, the agent spends about one week each month working with homemakers groups. The subject matter for these women's organizations is handled by specialists from the University.

II. ORGANIZATION

The Gila County Farm Bureau is the organization that is directly responsible for the Extension program, as the Farm Bureau must approve the county budget and program of work.

The Gila County Cattle Growers' Association is the active farm organization in this county. Most of the beef cattle producers belong to this organization. They co-operate with the Extension Service to the fullest extent and most of the work with cattlemen in the county is done through this association.

The Homemakers Council, which is made up of the officers of the five local homemakers clubs, helps to develop the Home Economics program for the county. This Council meets each year and works out a list of projects that they would like to work on during the coming year.

III. PROGRAM PLANNING

The program planning for Gila County is worked out with the Cattle Growers' Association, Farm Bureau and the Homemakers Council. No county-wide meeting with all these groups participating has been held to date.

IV. INFORMATION PROGRAM

A. Objective

The objective of the County Information Program is to supply the farm and rural people of the county with authentic, timely and useful information that they can use. The best and latest information on crops, livestock, and home economics will be stressed. 4-H activities will be promoted and given full publicity.



Squash Vines on Nematode Infested Ground
Treated With Dow W-40

B. Facilities and Utilization

1. Radio Station KWJB
To be used whenever appropriate.
2. Weekly Newspapers
Arizona Record, Globe; Miami Silver Belt, Miami.
Special stories, spot news and other publicity.
3. Magazines
Arizona Farmer, Arizona Stockman, etc. Special
articles to be prepared for these magazines when needed.
4. Visual Aids
Motion pictures, slides, window displays and printed
material to be used to give information to the people of
the county.
5. Bulletins
A complete stock of bulletins on agriculture and home
economics is maintained in the agent's office.

V. PROJECTS

2A - 4-H Clubs

Two foods clubs and one garden club with a total of 19 members were organized this year. The two foods clubs at San Carlos had a 100% completion.

A complete report of this work is found in the separate 4-H Narrative Report.

3 HORTICULTURE

3A - Home Gardens

The Home Garden project was started a good many years ago to increase the food supply and improve the diet of the rural people of the county. There are no railroads and very poor highways leading into the rural areas of this county. Fresh vegetables have been very hard to purchase and at the present time are not available at Young, Pine, Tonto Basin and other rural communities.

Several variety, disease and insect control test plots were set up and operated for a number of years. This project is still carried on by meetings, test plots and farm and home units.

Dr. J. N. Roney, the Extension Entomologist and the agent held an Injurious Insect Control meeting in Pine on April 21st. Use of new insecticides was explained. Slides showing the various injurious insects and samples of the insecticides were shown at this meeting.



Corn and Squash in Armer Home Garden



Sweet Corn Test Plot at Pine

At the end of last growing season, the home garden soil at the Armer Ranch was found to be infested with nematodes. Early this spring this plot was treated with Dow W-40. On checking the roots of the vegetables this fall, almost no nematodes were found except in one small area. This area was re-treated this fall.

A Sweet Corn Variety Test was set up at Pine this year. Four new Cornelli hybrids were tested using a locally grown open pollinated variety for a check. The Improved Flagship had less worm damage and produced the best corn. The Gold Rush variety was earliest by 10 days but had small ears.

Dr. Shields of the University of Arizona and Dr. Reynolds of the United States Department of Agriculture, made a plant disease survey of Gila County in August. Dr. Reynolds was particularly interested in nematodes. Nematodes were found in every community in the county.

3B - Decidious Fruit

Every farm and rural home owner has been encouraged to plant a small home orchard. There are a few small commercial orchards in the county.

Pruning demonstrations, disease and insect control demonstrations and proper care of orchard meetings were held in all parts of the county this year. H. F. Tate, the Extension Horticulturist spent two days in the county, giving pruning demonstrations and meeting with groups of homemakers to discuss home orchard problems.

Pear fire blight was a serious problem in pear and apple trees last year. A control program using Agrimycin spray at blossom time and controlled pruning has about controlled the disease.

Two walnut grafting demonstrations were held on Cherry Creek. The Codling Moth Control demonstration at Gisela was continued this year. Early harvesting of the Red Delicious apples keep the third generation of worms from doing any damage.

3C - Home Beautification

The February meeting of the Pinal Mountain Homemakers Club was devoted to Home and Yard Beautification. Mr. H. F. Tate, the Extension Horticulturist gave an ornamental plant pruning demonstration in the afternoon and gave a talk, illustrated by slides and movies, that evening.

Dr. Ivan Shields, the Extension Plant Pathologist and the agent met with the Winkleman-Hayden Homemakers Club and with a group from the Hayden Smelter to discuss diseases of house plants and ornamental plantings in yards.



Young Orchard in Pleasant Valley
Pruned by H.F. Tate

The agent gave two ornamental pruning demonstrations in Globe. These demonstrations were sponsored by the Globe Garden Club.

The agent gave a rose pruning demonstration at San Carlos. The Agriculture Class of the school arranged for the meeting.

The American Smelting and Refining Co. of Hayden gave free shade trees to all their employees that would agree to plant and care for the trees. The agent was called on for advise on what kind of trees to plant and how to care for them.

The Tent Caterpillar control program in Globe was carried on again this year. The agent and City Health Officer directed this program. The city furnished the spray rig and D.D.T.

The agent was called to the Copper Cities Copper Co. to give advise on landscaping their new office buildings.

The Slug Caterpillar or Asp invaded a large number of yards this fall. A number of people were poisoned by this caterpillar. The city donated the use of their power sprayer and furnished the D.D.T. to control these insects.

4 LIVESTOCK

The production of hereford feeder or stocker cattle is the main cash crop in Gila County. The county is mountainous and covered with brush and trees and is more suited to beef cattle production than to any other crops or livestock. The carrying capacity of the range is very low, so it requires large acreages to run enough cattle to support a family.

4A - External Parasites

The control of external parasites is one of the most important phases of beef cattle production. Screw worms, horn flies, lice and heel flies cost the ranchers a great deal of money each year by keeping the animals from gaining weight. Most cattlemen in the county have power sprayers and spray their cattle twice a year. Good control of all parasites except heel flies has been worked out. All cattlemen are kept informed on new spray materials and new methods of parasite controls.

4B - Cattle Growers' Association

The Gila County Cattle Growers' Association was organized in 1934. In 1935 this organization was instrumental in having the Extension Service place a County Agent in Gila County and has co-operated with this organization very closely since that time.



Calf With Foot Rot

All Extension work with marketing, association, organization, and programs for the cattlemen are carried on through the Cattle Growers' Association. A market listing service for spring and fall sales of cattle is maintained each year. All business meetings and other work of the association is done through the agent's office.

The Annual Meeting and Steak Fry of the Gila County Cattle Growers' Association was held at Rose Creek on September 11th. Albert Lane, Extension Livestock Specialist gave a talk on new cattle problems. The following officers were elected: Alf De Vore, President; William Bohme, Vice President; Carl Webb, Secretary and H. J. Hagen, Treasurer.

4C - Beef Cattle Production

All beef cattle work except External Parasites and Cattle Growers' Association is carried under this project.

Gila County cattle suffered from a severe drought this spring. An Emergency Drought Program was set up by the Federal Government and State of Arizona. The Arizona program was to pay half of the freight on alfalfa hay that was hauled to the ranchers for emergency cattle feed. The Extension Service was called on to assist in this program and was responsible for the payment for hauling the hay.

The drought situation was getting very serious when heavy, unexpected rains fell in June. A number of cattlemen that had signed up for emergency feed did not have to buy any feed. Only a few actually purchased feed.

The use of Salt & Meal reached new heights this year. As this past spring there was no grass for the cattle; mixtures of 3 meal to 1 salt and 4 meal to 1 salt or adding grain to the mixture, were used on several ranches. Practically all ranches in the county used this type of supplemental feed this spring.

The fourth Annual Registered Hereford Cattle Sale was held at the Bixby Ranch in February. The agent assisted with the planning and execution of this sale. Thirty nine bulls were sold, averaging \$385.00 per head. The Polled Hereford bulls averaged approximately \$100 more than the Horned bulls. The San Carlos Indian Tribe auctioned off about 5000 hereford feeder cattle this fall. The prices averaged about 1¢ per pound more than prices paid to local cattlemen.

The work started on dwarfism in hereford cattle is being carried on by Steve Bixby and the San Carlos pure bred herd. Several bulls are being tested by using carrier cows.

5A - Dairy Cattle

A small commercial dairy was started in the Payson area. The agent assisted this dairyman with milk-house plans, proper use of milking machines and proper handling of milk.



Preparing Cattle for San Carlos Auction

Practically all of the milk sold in this county is shipped in from the Salt River Valley, but every rancher or farmer has one or two milk cows. Advise on feeding, control of diseases and parasites and care of milk are the main problems handled by the agent.

5B - Poultry and Rabbits

The poultry industry has never been developed in Gila County. All feed must be shipped in to the area and eggs are shipped in cheaper than they can be produced locally. Several small commercial flocks are kept and three poultrymen are producing fryers for the local markets.

Disease control and feeding problems are the main calls handled by the agent. A number of farm visits and office calls are disposed of by the agent.

There are a few small operators growing rabbits for market. A number of telephone calls, office calls and farm visits were made to supply information to these operators.

7 AGRONOMY

7A - Hybrid Corn Test Plots

Hybrid Corn Test Plots were set up in the county when Hybrid Corn was first introduced. These plots have been continued as new hybrids are introduced.

Test plots were set up this year on the John Randall farm at Pine, and the Murphy farm near Payson. Four Funk Hybrids were planted, using Wisconsin 692 and a local open pollinated corn as checks. The severe drought this spring and early summer ruined this test. No results were obtained.

7B - Hay and Pasture

No reseeding of ranges or planting of permanent pasture was done this year. The lack of moisture last winter and spring prevented any planting this year.

9 AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

9A - Agricultural Engineering and Soil Conservation

The Agricultural Engineering project includes all work done on irrigation, land leveling, soil conservation and other problems related to engineering practices.

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Cattle Auction at San Carlos
November 23, 1955

The Pine community again pooled their A.S.C. payments and completed a 16" concrete pipe line to carry irrigation and domestic water to their gardens and homes. This pipe line is about 1 mile long. Half was installed last year.

Several ranchers in the county have started Juniper tree control on their patented land and also on forest lands. The Forest Service is paying part of the costs on forest lands. The Agricultural Stabilization Corp. pays part of the costs on private lands. The costs are running from \$3 to \$5 per acre.

Mr. C. A. Haught of Pleasant Valley has drilled a 12" well, 325 feet deep and installed a pump and engine on this well. On test, this well produced 800 gallons per minute. If other wells of like capacity can be drilled in the Valley, this area may have a farming revival. At present almost no farming is being done on the dry farm lands in this area. There are several hundred acres of land suitable for irrigated farming if water can be supplied.

13 FAIRS

13A - Pine-Payson Community Fair

No fair was held in this community in 1955. The spring drought, late frost damage and a hailstorm in late summer ruined the gardens and fruit in this area. The fair committee voted to not hold a fair this year.

13B - County Fair

The third County Fair was held at Young on October 1st. The Board of Supervisors appropriated \$250.00 and this was matched by the State from the Governors Fund. The Pleasant Valley Homemakers Club sponsored this fair. The Agricultural Extension Service furnished three judges and the agent spent several days helping on this fair. A free luncheon was served at noon. There was a very good display of agriculture and domestic science exhibits.

13C - State Fair Exhibit

A county agricultural exhibit was collected and sent to the State Fair. Mr. William Turner of Young was Fair Commissioner and was assisted by Mr. William Leminger of San Carlos. The Chamber of Commerce of Globe and Miami donated the money to set up the exhibit. The county was awarded a blue ribbon for the quality of exhibits displayed.

The agent was sent to Whiteriver to judge the agricultural exhibits at the Whiteriver Indian Fair on August 20th.



Time For Refreshments
Pleasant Valley Homemakers Club - October 14, 1955

The agent spent two days at Prescott in September, judging the field crop exhibits at the Yavapai County Fair. The agent was also called to St. Johns to judge the field crop exhibits at the Apache County Fair.

14 HOME ECONOMICS

As there is no Home Demonstration Agent in Gila County the Agricultural Agent has carried on all Home Economics work in the County for several years. Homemakers Clubs are operating in seven communities in the County. Two clubs represent two communities each. Most of the demonstrations and subject matter are handled by the specialists from the University of Arizona. The agent does all of the organization work and what subject matter assistance that he is capable of doing.

14A - Homemakers Council

The Gila County Homemakers Council is made up of the officers from the five homemakers clubs in the county. This Council met in Globe on October 4th to work out a program of work for the clubs for the coming year. Miss Jean Stewart, the State Leader and the agent met with this Council to assist them in selecting a program of work for 1956. New officers were elected and are: Mrs. Vivian Hayes, Pinal Mountain Club - President; Mrs. Arthur Maurel, Pleasant Valley Club - Vice President; Mrs. Betty Jameson, Pinal Mountain Club - Secretary; and Mrs. Steve Bryant, Miami Club - Treasurer.

14B - Homemakers Clubs

The Homemakers Clubs in Gila County this year are, the Pinal Mountain Club of Globe; the Lower Miami Club of Miami; the Pleasant Valley Club of Young; the Pine-Payson Club of Pine and Payson; and the Winkelman-Hayden Club of Winkelman and Hayden. The agent arranges all programs for these clubs and meets with them each month. Most demonstration programs are given by specialists from the University of Arizona.

In December all of the homemakers clubs held Christmas parties and exchanged homemade gifts. The agent or specialists did not meet with these groups in December as they were attending the Annual Extension Conference at Tucson.

Due to bad weather only two of the clubs met in January. The agent met with the Winkelman-Hayden Club on January 17th and gave them a talk on fertilizers and their use. On January 18th the Pinal Mountain Club had a representative of the Civilian Defense organization talk to them about what to do during an emergency.

In February, Dr. Ivan Shields, the Extension Plant Pathologist, met with the Winkelman-Hayden Club, giving them a lecture on diseases of potted plants and ornamentals in the yard. This talk was illustrated by slides.



Clothing Demonstration at Hayden
by Madeline Barley

The Annual Pot Luck and Husbands Night was held by the Pinal Mountain Club on February 16st. Mr. H.F. Tate, the Extension Horticulturist gave a talk on landscaping and care of ornamental plantings. This talk was illustrated by movies and slides. A rose pruning demonstration was held in the afternoon in connection with the meeting.

Sewing Machine Clinics were held in Globe and Hayden during the month of March. A total of 25 machines were cleaned and adjusted at the two meetings. Miss Madeline Barley, a Home Demonstraion Agent at Large assisted the agent with these clinics.

In March, Miss Barley met with the five homemakers clubs in the county, giving them a demonstration entitled, "Your Figure and Your Clothes". The demonstration was planned to help women select ready made clothes or patterns so that the garment because of its style, created an illusion of a proportioned figure. In presenting the lesson three things were done:

1. Miss Barley talked figures as material to work, with regardless of what shape they were in. This was done carefully to set the stage for what was to follow.
2. Showed illustrations of 12 different types of figures. The women helped select one representative person of each type. The women stood in front of the group to show the great variance in sizes and shapes. Then each person diagnosed herself with the help of kind friends and tried to place herself in one of the types described.
3. Clothes for each type were discussed and illustrations of styles becoming each were shown. With masking tape we tried to show how lines affect the appearance of a garment and how a wrong line made a great deal of difference in the illusion we want to create.

In April, Dr. J. N. Roney, the Extension Entomologist met with the five homemakers clubs and gave a demonstration on, "Control of Household and Garden Insects." Samples of all of the new insecticides recommended by Dr. Roney were on display.

In May, Miss Barley met with the five homemakers clubs and gave a demonstration on, "Long Range Meal Planning." This demonstration was requested by the clubs, so they could use their deep freezes and also tie in the project with Civilian Defense food planning.



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Five Minute Demonstration by Member of
Winkleman-Hayden Homemakers Club

In June, Miss Grace Ryan, the Home Management Specialist met with the five clubs giving them a demonstration called, "Wood Finishes," Standard finishes and modern finishes were discussed. This was an excellent demonstration and was very popular with the clubs.

In September, Miss Barley met with all of the clubs except Miami and gave a demonstration entitled, "The Five Piece Slip Cover." This demonstration was to teach the women how to make slip covers that are easy to put on and take off for washing.

In October and November, Mrs. Madeline Barley McConnico met with the homemakers clubs of the county. She gave a demonstration entitled, "Lets Give That Garment That Professional Touch." This demonstration was started in October and completed at the November meetings. The ladies present learned; 1. How to put in a hem by machine without special attachments. 2. How to take out fullness in making a hem in a gored skirt. 3. How to make a handmade button hole. 4. How to put in a gusset. 5. How to make a rolled hem. 6. How to hem a skirt so the stitches do not show. 7. How to reinforce a slit in a skirt and many other methods in sewing.

SUMMARY FOR HOME ECONOMICS WORK

On a check of about 30% of the members of the five clubs in the county, the women reported the following changes made:

Dry Cleaning

1. Number that clean their own clothes - 25

Sewing Methods Learned

1. Putting in zippers - 34
2. Made belt and buckle - 32
3. Showed others - 28

Home Furnishings

1. Number that made slip covers - 10
2. Number that used finishes taught in projects - 15

Wood Finishes

1. Number that finished or refinished furniture - 15

Ironing Methods Changed

1. Ironing sitting down - 35
2. Dampening clothes with warm water and not rolling tight - 46

Foods

Women present reported they are more conscious of family food patterns.

20 women reported Long Range Meal Planning project helped them with frozen food problems.



Pleasant Valley Homemakers Club at Work
November 20, 1955

15 MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

15A - Farm Safety and Fire Prevention

The Farm Safety and Fire Prevention campaigns that were sponsored by the Federal Government were carried on in Gila County by discussing these programs at meetings and by publicity in the news papers. A representative of the Civilian Defense talked to the Globe and Miami Homemakers Clubs on how to act during an emergency.

15B - Miscellaneous Livestock

All work on horses, hogs, goats and sheep is included under this project.

All of the ranches in the county have a few saddle horses. The agent is called on for advise on diseases, injuries and general care of these animals. Distemper, Colic and Azoturia are the most common ailments.

A few farmers produce a small number of hogs. Vaccination for Hog Cholera and feeding problems are the most common problems presented to the agent.

15C - Social Security Law for Farmers

Circulars and literature have been sent out to all farmers and ranchers, explaining the new Social Security Law that will affect most farmers at the end of the year. This program was also discussed at several meetings.

15D - Organization

A total of 68 days were spent on organization work this year and 9 days were spent on, "in service training for agents".

The agent met with the Farm Bureau and County Board of Supervisors to get the approval of the 1955-56 Extension Budget. An increase of \$100 was asked for and granted by the Board.

VI. OUTLOOK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6A - Outlook

There should be very little change in the farming outlook for the next few years unless new ground water supplies are developed in the northern part of the county. Numbers of cattle should remain the same or decrease slightly due to cuts of permitted numbers on the National Forests. There should be some increase of weights on individual cattle, due to better breeding and management.

The homemakers program should continue to expand if suitable specialist help is available from the University.

4-H Club work should grow as the number of children under 10 reach club age.

6B - Recommendations

1. Rate of gain studies should be carried on with selected cattlemen.

2. Work on eradication of Dwarfism in hereford cattle should be carried on with all bull producers.

3. Supplemental feeding of cattle and parasite control should be stressed.

4. Fertilizer work should be expanded and test plots established.

5. The 4-H Club program should be expanded.

6. The Homemakers Club program should be enlarged.