

Hempstead Texas

June 29, 1942

Mr. O. A. Mason

Dear Sir:

In close you will find the report for the Center Hill Community. This was all I could report at present. We were told about you leaving. We regret very of losing a dear Agent as you have been. Come by to see us and let us know when you are going to stop by.
Yours for Success
S. Johnson -

Negro County Agricultural Agent

County Waller

District Southern

1942

Texas Supplement to 285

Agricultural Work

Report of O. A. Mason

Negro County Agricultural Agent

From December 1, 1941 to June 30 1942

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Farm Life within the County

Waller county farmers began the year of 1942 with a small amount of home grown feed due to the 1941 crop shortage, however, arrangements were made to secure loans for feed through the Feed and Seed Loan Association and the Farm Security Administration.

This year has been a favorable one for the production of adequate food and feed and appreciative prospects have been observed. All indications point to a successful food and feed for victory program through out the county.

A labor shortage has occurred as a result of men being inducted into the Army and a shift of rural people to defense areas.

Farm families are experiencing neat incomes from the sale of milk, butter, eggs, chickens, beef cattle, hogs, vegetables and melons. Quite a number have secured cash from hired labor receiving from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a day for cotton chopping.

Gardens have been good as compared with last year and farm families have had the pleasure of eating plenty of fresh vegetables and canning the surplus.

In general there seem to exist a feeling of satisfaction among farm families as the outlook for a bumper crop year with parity prices for same is promising.

The county is organized into community councils of Agriculture and representatives of the community councils of Agriculture forms the County Council of Agriculture and they function by promoting community and county agricultural activities, locating prospective demonstrators and cooperators and disseminating information in the various communities of the county. A meat show was sponsored by the Council displaying the products at Hempstead, Texas.

Farm boys are organized into 4-H clubs and they function by carrying demonstrations in crops and livestock enterprises teaching improved farm practices in their particular communities and by making contributions to the family income; by beautifying church and school grounds; by cooperating in the scrap iron collection and rubber salvage collection program and paper collection.

The county is delineated into five communities and twenty four neighborhoods. Each community has a woman and a man leader, who appointed a man and a woman leader for each neighborhood. The neighborhood leaders are responsible for the families in their neighborhood having one leader to enroll not more than twenty families. From the community Leaders A Victory Council is formed known as the County Agricultural Victory Council. This organization serve as a human chain of communication and functions by getting war information to and from farm families and the expansion of Leadership.

A deal of consideration was given to planning the 1942 program of work that it would meet the needs of the Farm Families and coincide with war efforts. The plan of work centered around the food and feed for Victory program and the cooperation with war emergencies.

The plan of work proposed a closer cooperation of the agencies of Vocational Educational, Rural Ministers, Adult Education, Local Schools, Chamber of Commerce, Commissioners Court, County Council of Agriculture, Land Use Planning, Churches, Civic Organizations, County War Board, County Rationing Board, Feed and Seed Loan, W. P. A., F. S. A., A. A. A.) My N. Y. A., O. P. M., O. P. A. and O. C. D. to evolve and put into operation a worth while county program that is leading to improved economic, health, cultural, social and spiritual conditions of the participating farm families of the county.

The goal in corn production was to have farmers to fully realize the value of corn as a food and feed crop and to urge the production of an adequate amount to meet home and farm needs. Adult and junior demonstrators conducted demonstrations carrying out improved recommendations to show that an increased yield could be obtained by the use of improved cultural methods, pure seeds and the application of fertilizers and manures. Corn grown on land where peas were turned under last year show a better prospect for corn as compared with other land not fertilized or manured.

The planting of peanuts and grain sorghum such as Hegari and Shrock Kaffir has been recommended in order to supplement the corn crop, in event there is a shortage of corn.

Water melons, sweet potatoes and syrup sorghum were the chief crops planted for truck and they were painted for commercial and home uses. Demonstrators were enrolled to conduct demonstrations to show the improved methods of producing the crops mentioned. The marketing of melons got under way around the 15 th. of June. Melons are being marketed on the local market and trucked to various points within a radius of 100 miles.

The frequent rains make it possible for the planting of sweet potatoes without watering and farmers are endeavoring to get as many planted as conditions will permit. Most of the sweet potatoes planted in this county are the Red Velvet variety.

The production of syrup sorghum for the making of syrup for home use has gained impetus and farmers in every community are planting syrup cane. The Golden Rod variety was recommended for this county. Efforts were made to locate a syrup mill in every community of the county. At present there are ten mills in the county and plans are in the making to get five more.

Farmers through out the county were contacted by means of circular letters, local meetings and farm visits in interest of increasing the number of hogs kept to supply adequate pork and its products for home consumption and a surplus to meet the county goal in supplying war needs.

Instructions were given in swine feeding, pasturing, housing, sanitation, controlling internal and external parasites and diseases. Eighty five per cent of the farmers were successful in increasing the number of swine kept by means of better care of the brood sows and carrying out improved farm practices of swine production. More than sixty farmers in the county are growing Hogs for commercial purposes. The Poland China is the principal breed kept.

Demonstrations in killing, cutting and curing pork were conducted in ten communities resulting in more than 5000 lbs. of pork killed and cured the A/M. way. Cold storage facilities were provided at the ice plant at Hempstead, Texas at a cost of one cent per pound net weight.

More than fifty choice pieces of hams, shoulders and bacons were displayed in a meat exhibit ~~held at~~ shown at Hempstead, Texas.

The aims in work with poultry were to get farmers to produce enough poultry to adequately supply the family needs with the required amount of poultry meat and eggs as determined by the Texas Food Standard and to have poultry and eggs to sell through out the year. Farmers were urged to keep records of their flock and carry out improved recommended practices in poultry production. Demonstrations and instructions were given in controlling internal and external parasites, feeding, housing, culling, care and management. More than 100 farm families have eggs to sell the year round. Assistance was given farmers in five communities in vaccinating over 150 head of turkeys for breeding purposes.

Beef cattle fits well into the Waller county scheme of farming owing to the following natural resources: There are a number of creeks affording fresh running water; plenty of grasses; shade and the soil is fairly productive. Quite a few Negro farmers depend on beef cattle as a major source of income. Herd improvement is taking place as a result of pure bred bulls. Herford and Brahama bulls are used for herd improvement with the Hereford predominating.

Farmers were advised to sell off their old cows taking advantage of the increased price paid for cattle. The mowing of pastures to increase the carrying capacity of livestock was encouraged. A few farmers fed out cattle for the market. Farmers were advised to market their surplus feed through their cattle.

The work in Agricultural Engineering included the construction of barns, poultry houses, brooders, brooder houses, terracing, ditching, well digging, repairing farm implements and machinery, building steps, screen doors, gates and walks and building fence.

Community leaders and school teachers assisted with the work by calling the people together and encouraging the expansion of the program. Local leaders assisted by teaching others what they learned by visiting demonstrations.

Terracing was done on one farm protecting twelve acres from some soil erosion. Four farms were drained comprising thirty acres. Thirty six farms repaired fifty machines. Twenty five farms constructed forty nine buildings. Ten farms repaired sixteen buildings. Fifteen farms have farm shops and do most of their work.

Feed being the basis of good farming practices farmers were encouraged to plant a variety of forage crops and sufficient acreage to meet the farm needs. Planned acreage were planted to the following crops: Red Top, Sudan grass, Peanuts for hay, Peas for hay, Hegari and Oats. Farmers have begun harvesting their native hay which is principally Johnson grass. Quite a number of farmers have harvested over five tons of native hay. Farmers without meadows are helping those with meadows receiving a share of the hay for pay.

Farmers were advised to cut all grasses possible to cut that they may have a surplus and that there may be hay for making bedding for their live stock ~~which~~ which will absorb all of the liquid from the animals thereby increasing the quality of the manures.

Work was done in improving meadows by grubbing and mowing weeds; also the planting of a variety of legume and grass seeds.

There is an urgent need for more high producing dairy cows in the county. The county is short of dairy sires to improve the dairy herd. An appreciative number of dairy cows have been brought into the county and plans are in the making for more to be brought in through club loans financed by the Farm Security Administration and the American Creamery Company operating out of Bellville, Texas. \$ 4-H Club Boys have applications in for loans to purchase high graded dairy animals.

More than 35 farm families are selling milk to the creamery and quite a few are selling milk in their local vicinities.

Farmers have been encouraged to do their part in supplying the family needs with adequate milk and its products and the fact that butter can be used as shortening has been emphasized. Instructions in feeding, care and management of the dairy animals and breeding has been given to farmers through out the county at local meetings and through circular letters. The breeding of animals to have them freshen at different periods so that milk may be had the year round was encouraged.

Cotton is the major cash crop in the county and a deal of emphasis has been placed on improving the length of the staple and the grade of cotton. Work was done to cut the cost of production by the application of commercial fertilizers and the use of barnyard manures and plowing under cover crops.

Adult and 4-H club demonstrators are conducting cotton demonstrations to teach the improved methods of producing cotton.

There are two one variety cotton communities in the county planting their cotton acreage to long staple cotton.

Poisoning cotton where needed is recommended and farmers have begun poisoning for the control of the cotton Flea Hopper and the Cotton Boll Weevil. Farmers are cooperating in the use of poisoning machines.

The outlook for a good cotton crop is promising.

Report of Rubber & Iron for Center Hill Community.

Name	Dealer sold to	Weight
Mr. George Johnson.	A. H. Deewese	34 lb.
Rev W. G. Barnes.	H. C. Stephens	100 lb
Mr. George Bennette	H. C. Stephens	49 lb
Mr Robert Jackson	H. C. Stephens	45 lb
Mr. Warren Lewis	Hempstead.	132 lb
Master J. H. Goodwine.	H. C. Stephens	90 lb
Master Claude Tompson	H. C. Stephens.	238 lb

There have been sold in the comm: 759 lb of iron.

The community club has raised around 2900 Pounds of Irish potatoes.

The neighborhood leader Mrs Mary Gilliam have furnished the community with plums from her home Orchard. She sold \$19.00 worth as profit.

There have been added in poultry around 500 chicks.

Most of the men have their Syrup Cane up and growing very nicely for the mill they are hoping to burn in the near future.

The women have caned around 300 jars & cans of vegetables.

Reporter Leola Johnson & George Johnson. Comm: & neighborhood leaders.

District Southern

County Waller

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS AND UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

Extension Service
County Agent Work

P L A N O F W O R K

1 9 4 2

County Agricultural Agents

To be prepared by the County Agricultural Agent and the
farm and ranch men of the county land use planning
committee.

Make two copies of this plan of work.

Keep one copy for your files.

Prepare and attach to this plan of work a narrative report
of from two to four pages based on the following outline:

- I. Situation or Economic Background
- II. Problems
- III. Solution to Problems
- IV. Definite Goals
- V. Extension Procedure or Teaching Method
 - (a) Extension Literature
 - (b) Specialists' Help
 - (c) Illustrative Material
 - (d) Publicity
 - (e) Radio and Visual Instruction
- VI. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations
- VII. Calendar of Work
- VIII. County Map
- IX. Assistance Rendered by Farm and Ranch Men
of the County Land Use Planning Committee
in Preparing Plan of Work

Mail 1 copy of this Plan of Work by December 10, 1941, to
District Agent

PLAN OF WORK FOR Waller COUNTY, 1942

FARM AND RANCH MEN OF THE COUNTY LAND USE PLANNING COMMITTEE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Check those present</u>
Richmond Palmer	Sunny Side, Texas	
R. A. Jackson	" " "	
Elie Pryor	" " "	
Charlie Gibson	Rt. 2, Brookshire	
Joe Paley	Brookshire, Texas	
Walter Owens	Waller, Texas	
James Muse	Waller, Texas	
Frank Dennis	Rt. 2, Hempstead, Texas	
John Brooks	" " " "	
Cleve Compton	" " " "	
G. L. Archie	" " " "	
George Hines	" " " "	
Jessie Wilson	" " " "	
Walter Rutledge	" " " "	
John Singleton	Hempstead, Texas	

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Officials 1942

Honorable George O. Crump County Judge	Hempstead, Texas
Otto Zach Commissioner	Rt. 2, Hempstead, Texas
Willie Stefka Commissioner	Sunny Side, Texas
Wayne Philips Commissioner	Rt. 1, Hempstead, Texas
C. A. Willpitz Commissioner	Brookshire, Texas
* * * * *	
J. J. Mansfield Congressman	
L. J. Sulak State Senator	
Everett Hutcherson State Representative	

* * * * *

Tax valuation for 1941 \$1,032,432

Number of communities in which you will conduct Extension work 16

Number of communities that have some type of community organization 14

Number of communities where a program of work is planned by the community 6

Farm Management

1. No. of farmers asking for farm record books, estimated.....48
2. No. of farmers asking for cash lease forms10
3. No. of farmers asking for livestock share lease forms
4. No. of meetings held in county on farm credit6

Boys' 4-H Clubs

1. Number of local 4-H leaders in county8
2. Does your county have a county 4-H councilNo
3. Does your county have and use a 4-H yearbookNo
4. Number attending A. & M. Short Course
5. Number attending District encampments

Information on Livestock Shows

6. Did your county have a local 4-H show
7. Number of different animals your 4-H boys exhibited in all shows:
 - (a) Beef.....
 - (b) Dairy.....
 - (c) Swine.....
 - (d) Sheep.....
 - (e) Goats.....
 - (f) Poultry.....

Information on Livestock Sales

8. (a) No. beef calves sold..... (b) weight..... (c) total sales \$.....
9. (a) No. sheep sold..... (b) weight..... (c) total sales \$.....
10. (a) Pounds wool sold..... (b) total sales \$.....
11. (a) No. goats sold..... (b) weight..... (c) total sales \$.....
12. (a) Pounds mohair sold..... (b) total sales \$.....
13. (a) No. dairy cattle sold..... (b) total sales \$.....
14. (a) No. swine sold..... (b) weight..... (c) total sales \$.....
15. (a) No. poultry sold..... (b) total sales \$.....

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK

IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS
AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

STATE OF TEXAS

EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY AGENT WORK

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE DEPENDED UPON FOR
COOPERATION: " White"

Mr. Jessie Greathouse	Hempstead, Texas
" H. A. Dobbs	" "
" L. E. Hawkins	" "
" L. B. Sanders	" "
" L. B. Davis	" "
" Bill Haucks	" "
Boetcher Brothers	Waller, Texas

" NEGRO"

Frank Mr. Frank Dennis	Rt. 2, Hempstead, Texas
" John Branch	" " "
" Jesse Wilson	" 1, "
" Cleve Compton	" 2, "
" Richmond Palmer	Sunny Side, "
" Dick Jackson	" " "
" Alonzo Braggs	Rt. 3, Hempstead, "
" Joe Paley	Brookshire, "