

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE
For the Period
November 1, 1940--October 31, 1941

STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL AND HOME ECONOMICS EXTENSION WORK
IN WHATCOM COUNTY

The Agricultural Extension Service was established in Whatcom County in May 1917 with a number of agents serving the farm people of the county. The Whatcom County Agricultural Service Personnel on November 1, 1940 included Fred W. Frasier, County Extension Agent; Miss Eleanor Davis, Agent in Home Economics; Miss Carolyn Polstra, Assistant Extension Agent in Home Economics; Harry T. Gleason, Assistant Extension Agent in Agriculture; Guy C. Anderson, Assistant Extension Agent in Dairying and Supervisor of the Owner Sampler Dairy Herd Improvement Association; Carl G. Stock, Assistant Extension Agent in Poultry; Lewis E. Mikota, Assistant Extension Agent in Dairy and Supervisor of the Standard Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

On August 1, 1941, Fred W. Frasier was transferred to the state office to assume his duties as State Extension Poultry Specialist. Mr. F. E. Balmer, Director of Extension, with the concurrence of the Whatcom County Board of County Commissioners appointed L. N. Freiman, County Extension Agent of Island County to the position left vacant by Mr. Frasier. On August 1 Mr. Harry Gleason, Assistant Extension Agent in Agriculture was promoted to the position of county agent for Island County. On July 15, Gale G. Gurtle was appointed as Assistant Extension Agent in Agriculture at large for Whatcom County. Upon the resignation of Mr. Gleason and recommendation by F. E. Balmer to the Whatcom County Board of County Commissioners, Gale G. Gurtle was appointed Assistant Extension Agent in Agriculture.

Stenographic assistance in the office consists of Miss Alice Miller, full time stenographer until July 1 when Edna Johnson became the full time clerk.

The Whatcom County Agriculture Extension Service personnel as of November 1 includes L. N. Freiman, County Extension Agent; Eleanor Davis, Extension Agent in Home Economics; Carolyn Polstra, Assistant Extension Agent in Home Economics; Gale G. Gurtle, Assistant Extension Agent in Agriculture; Guy C. Anderson, Assistant Agent in Dairy and Supervisor of the Owner Sampler plan D.H.I.A.; Carl G. Stock, Assistant Extension Agent in Poultry; Lewis Mikota, Assistant Agent in Dairy and Supervisor of the Standard plan D.H.I.A.

Since the present county agent has only been in the county a very short time preceeding the writing of this report the general policy of the office has been to carry on as the office had previously been doing. The agent appreciates the cooperation from the Board of County Commissioners, State College of Washington, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the people in general in Whatcom County. As a result of this cooperation

and assistance given the entire program has gone forward. At present the agents cooperate with and work through such organizations as Pomona Grange, Grange Council, 20 subordinate Granges, the Washington Cooperative egg and Poultry Association, the Whatcom County Dairymen's Association, the Washington Cooperative Chick Association, Poultrymen's Hatchery, the Owner Sampler and Standard Plan Dairy Herd Improvement Associations, 4-H Club Leader's Council, Guernsey, Jersey, Holstein, and Ayrshire Cattle Breeders' Association, Independent Feed Dealer's Association, the Independent Chick Hatcheries, two county Poultry Locals, Farm Security Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Building Committees, Farm Credit Administration, State Department of Agriculture, PTA's, the rural and urban Press, the radio, and others who are working for the interests of Agriculture

The present agent who was then holding the position of Assistant County Agent in Agriculture, left Whatcom in 1932. After 9½ years absence from the county the agent has been amazed at the tremendous increase in activities which are now being carried on in this office in comparison to the work done 9½ years ago.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

Fifteen days were devoted to the work of the Conservation program during the year. Fifteen meetings with a total attendance of 266 were held. Five hundred two office calls were cared for. Nine circular letters were issued and ten news articles were released to the press. Three radio talks were prepared and presented.

One exhibit was shown at the Northwest Washington Fair in the form of a "little theater", using a sound motion picture and a display of attractive colored plaques.

Specialists assisted seven days in conducting the program for the balance of the year.

Since the agent arrived in Whatcom County at practically the close of the year a complete report of the year's activities were taken care of by F. W. Frasier, formerly County Agent.

Upon arriving in Whatcom County there was considerable difficulty in assisting farmers who were troubled with "hot wheat". Mr. Claud Wilson, Farm Field man, and Claus Peters, State Committeeman, met with the county committee on three occasions relative to giving the local farmers whatever assistance was plausible with reference to the handling of their "hot wheat."

During August a meeting was held of the county committee to discuss the 1942 practice recommendations. The following changes in the 1942 practices were made by the county committee.

1. Phosphate may be used on new seedings with nurse crops regardless of the disposition of the nurse crop.
2. Potash may be used on new seedings with nurse crops regardless of the disposition of the nurse crop.
3. Under practice 6-1 it is recommended that two pounds of white clover be sufficient to meet the requirements of this practice, which now calls for four pounds of white clover and not less than twelve pounds of adapted perennial grasses and perennial legumes.
4. It is recommended that separate allowances be made for the family living improvement practices other than the amount which each farm may now earn.

The county AAA committee assisted in setting up the exhibit at the Northwest Washington Fair which consisted of large placquards portrayed on attractive three color backgrounds. In addition to the regular AAA exhibit Mr. Miller of the Extension Service showed two movies on conservation work.

The committee met three times during the year to formulate plans for the potato referendum which was held during the month. Three educational meetings on the potato referendum were held. These meetings were scheduled in the Ferndale, Lynden, and Clearbrook districts. Two polling places, in addition to the county offices, were made available for the potato growers so that they could cast their vote without driving long distances. The ballots were mailed to the regional office in Yakima for tabulation. No word has ever been received as to the outcome of the potato referendum.

The agent and Mr. Duxbury, Chairman of the Committee, attended a

district meeting in Mt. Vernon on August 28th to learn more about the potato marketing agreement and the referendum which is to be held in September.

In order to determine a more accurate basis for establishing the potato allotments for the coming year, a meeting was called at which Mr. Louis King, County Horticultural Inspector, Community Committeemen, and the Field Supervisors met with the County Committee.

Potato Acreage on farms in Whatcom County

1939.....	905
1940.....	1056
1941.....	1127

The potato yield for the years 1939 through 1940 had been set at 250 bushels per acre in addition to the potato acreage listed, it was estimated that there were 2157 acres of potatoes which were harvested by operators who normally grow potatoes on different farms from one year to the next.

A wheat letter was prepared notifying all farmers of the coming wheat referendum this spring and also recommending that they do not grow over 15 acres of wheat for harvest this coming year. In addition notifying every farmer by mail, a radio talk was prepared and given.

A district meeting on the 1942 soil conservation program was held in Seattle at which the committeemen and the secretary attended. Upon returning to the county a meeting was immediately called for the committeemen relative to the 1942 program changes. At this meeting the community committeemen were also given instructions relative to the Food for Defense program.

Following the training of the community committeemen for the 1942 Agricultural Conservation program and Food for Defense program the county was organized and the work immediately started.

HORTICULTURE

Dr. John Snyder, Extension Horticulturist, devoted two half days to checking on the horticultural projects in the county. He also attended the Farm Women's Vacation Camp and discussed floriculture with the women.

Mr. Fred Frasier, past county agent, accompanied the new agent on a tour of the county to get better acquainted with the horticulture projects. Strawberry fertilizer test plots on the Arthur Brue farm were visited and the tree training demonstration on the Louis Bruemmer farm were viewed. The results of the fertilizer test plots on the Brue farm were turned into Mr. Fred Frasier, past agent.

1st Year Plot, North	Lbs. Strawberries Harvested
Plot	
PK	183#
K	137#
Check	140#
NK	200#
Check	199#
NK	261#
NKP	217#
Check	168#

2 Year Plot, South	Lbs. Strawberries Harvested
Plot	
PK	168#
N	229#
Check	230#
NP	212#
Check	196#
NK	167#
NPK	242#
Check	202#

Mr. G. Wald, United States Horticulturist, Dr. John Snyder, Extension Horticulturist, Charles Gaines, State Seed Inspector, Lewis King, County Horticulturist Inspector, and the agent inspected several of the certified strawberry fields on the Oscar Sheets farm relative to the progress of the work in the county. The men were very well pleased with the quality of the certified plants which produced on the Sheets farm. There appeared to be a very small percentage of infection in the fields.

Two plantings of the Washington raspberries were also inspected to find out how well these plants were growing under Whatcom county conditions.

The five hundred Veteran peach trees which were planted on the Wright farm at Ferndale have made an excellent growth this year. The five older trees which bore had exceptionally nice large fruit of excellent quality. The Veteran peach appears to be very promising both for fresh consumption and for canning. An additional five or six hundred trees will be planted on this farm next year.

FOOD FOR DEFENSE

Whatcom County has been very active in the Food for Defense program. The County Defense Board attended a meeting in Seattle relative to the all-out needs for increased food production in order to win the war. Following the meeting at Seattle, the agent spoke at Pomona Grange, where there was an attendance of 102, on the cooperation which will be asked of Whatcom county farmers.

Following the Seattle meeting a meeting of the County Defense Board was called by the chairman, Ralph Duxbury, to lay out plans for bringing the message to the farmers and asking for their cooperation in the county. All of the Agencies in the Defense Council have been very cooperative in giving their assistance so that the program will be a success in the county.

The necessary materials have been received, County Committeemen have been trained and cooperation of the farmers is under way. At present the indications are that the farmers of Whatcom county will cooperate most heartily with the program. Approximately 600 Food for Freedom work sheets have been returned to the office with a definite upward trend in poultry and dairy products. Since Whatcom County is a large poultry and dairy producing area these two commodities are of large importance in the campaign.

Three mass meetings of farmers were held throughout the county in order to acquaint the farmers with the Food for Victory campaign. These meetings were all held on the same day with the various members of the Defense Board acting as chairmen of the meetings. Many questions were asked relative to how the farmer can increase his output, especially the increase in milk which had been asked for.

The agent spoke on the Food for Defense program at the Laurel and Lynden Grange meetings with an attendance of 140.

Mr. R. P. Duxbury, chairman of the Whatcom County Agricultural Defense Board, called a meeting relative to a survey of farm machinery which was asked for by the Government. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Soil Conservation Service, the Federal Land Bank, Farm Security Administration, Agricultural Conservation Association, and the Agricultural Extension Service. At the meeting it was planned that the various members of the committee survey the dealers and farm representatives in their district which was assigned to them, at the meeting. Another meeting was arranged to coordinate the findings of the entire group.

A complete report of the findings of this committee is enclosed.

FARM MACHINERY NEEDED IN YOUR COUNTY IN 1942

KIND OF MACHINE	NOW ON FARMS (NUMBER)	PUR. NEW 1940 1941 1/	MINIMUM NEEDED IN 1942 2/	NEW MACHINES MOST NEEDED IN 1942 3/
Tractors used on farms: Gen. Purpose	400	99 118	160	1
Other.....	350	00 00	00	
Trucks used on farms: ½ to 1½ Tons..	950	25 30	30	
Over 1½ Tons..	200	5 7	7	
Gasoline engines used on farms.....	150	00 00	00	
Electric motors used on farms 4/.....	3000	183 250	250	2
Farm wagons and trailers.....	4000	23 20	36	
Plows & listers--1 horse.....	75	6 3	4	
2 horse or larger.....	1500	18 9	10	
tractor drawn.....	750	115 173	225	1
Grain drills.....	300	13 15	15	10
Corn planters (horse or tractor).....	45	3 4	8	10
Other planters (horse or tractor)....	00	00 00	00	
Harrows and discs.....	3700	229 258	400	1
Corn and other row crop cultivators				
1 horse.....	2000	60 60	60	10
2 horse or larger.....	170	4 2	5	10
Tractor drawn.....	185	49 64	88	6
Sprayers, duster (horse or power)....	75	13 21	35	10
Grain binders.....	300	12 12	15	11
Grain combines.....	12	5 5	20	9
Grain separators.....	22	00 00	2	
Hay mowers.....	1500	94 115	132	2
Hay rakes.....	900	54 72	72	4
Hay loaders.....	300	32 54	70	2
Pick up hay balers.....	2	00 1	2	11
Corn binders.....	7	00 00	00	00
Corn Pickers.....	000	00 00	00	
Kniallage cutters.....	75	21 23	25	10
Manure spreaders.....	1500	59 91	127	2
Lime and fertiliser spreaders.....	100	29 47	50	10
Milking machines.....	700	48 55	110	3
Cream separators.....	300	58 26	29	8
Barb wire (rods).....		74,000 200,000	220,000	3
Woven wire (rods).....		21,000 21,000	24,000	3
Others (list).....				

1/ Estimate for entire calendar year.

2/ In estimating needs consider defense program and the scarcity of materials for making machinery, the labor situation in your county, and the present condition of existing machinery and equipment; also the probable need for increasing or decreasing the output of different products.

3/ In this column place the number "1" opposite the machine that heads the list in urgency of need for new machines; then the number "2" opposite the one second in importance; and so on throughout the entire list.

4/ Do not include motors used in household.

The Agent prepared a talk on the fall planting of bulbs for the Birchwood Garden Club and the City garden club. A great deal of interest was shown in the proper planting of all fall bulbs and the propagation of ornamentals.

Mr. Carl Stock accompanied Mrs. Bamber, leader of the Excelsior Blossom Club, on a tour of the flower gardens of the members. Most of the gardens were very promising but showed some effect of the dry weather.

The Agent judged the vegetable, fruit, grains, and 4-H garden displays at the 25th annual Lawrence Community Fair. Throughout all these years a very active 4-H boys and girls club has been operating in this community. The excellent quality of the displays at the community fair was reflected through the years in which this community has been selecting exhibits for the fair. A most interesting program depicting the 25th Anniversary was held for this special occasion. The Agent also judged the Haynie Community Fair which has been operating for two years. The 4-H clubs in this community also have a most splendid exhibit.

Mr. Wm. Chapin, Soil Conservation Service; Mr. Ward Vander Griend, Farm Security Administration; Mr. Ralph Duxbury, chairman AAA; and L. N. Freiman, Extension Agent, prepared a radio program with reference to the "Food for Freedom" campaign, which was given over KVOS.

After Mr. Gleason left Whatcom County, Mr. Stock assisted with the 4-H garden club work. In July he met with the Lawrence 4-H Garden Club at which time the club members discussed their projects and social events which were to be held throughout the year. It was emphasized by Mr. Stock that the club members should have a splendid display for their community and county fairs.

The Victor Garden Club held a tour in July. Mr. Stock accompanied their leader, Mr. Howard Hawk. The gardens in this club were of excellent quality. Another tour which Mr. Stock accompanied was with the Glendale Garden Club in August.

SPECIAL CROPS

Flax

A great deal of interest has been manifested in Whatcom county relative to the production of flax for fiber. The first meeting in regard to this important crop was held in the Laurel district, with Mr. Swango, manager of one of the large cooperative flax plants near Eugene, Oregon, speaking on the culture and the processing of fiber flax.

Another meeting was held at the Lynden City Hall in order to acquaint the general public more thoroughly with flax fiber production. At this meeting a committee of farmers was appointed to further investigate the possibility of flax production in Whatcom County. The committee of twelve met in the Federal Building in Bellingham relative to the possibility of further study, and the best procedure to follow with reference to flax production. It was decided that a group of farmers, including the county agent, should make the trip into Oregon to study flax fiber production. A complete report of this tour has been included.

Cotton Mattress Program

The agent assisted Miss Eleanor Davis, Home Demonstration Agent, in organizing the Cotton Mattress Program in the Lummi Island district. Since the agent has come into the county a car-load of cotton has been received, stored, and partially delivered to the various communities which are starting the mattress program.

In addition to the car-load of cotton sufficient ticking has been received to complete the entire mattress program and also 12,000 yards of percale to make the comforters.

MISCELLANEOUS

The agent attended the Annual Farmers' Field Day at the Western Washington Experiment Station at Puyallup on August 28 and assisted with the Horticulture tours. Since the field day was held at a later date this year, new projects were seen by the farmers attending the tour. Many people were surprised to learn that such excellent peaches could be grown in Western Washington. All, or nearly all, the different varieties bore fruit this year. The Veteran and the Rochester seem to be the outstanding varieties for this district.

The agent spoke at the Farm Women's Vacation Camp which was held at the Mount Baker High School, on the opening evening of the camp.

Mr. Frasier devoted a few days to acquainting the new agent with the key farmers and business men in the county who are influential in assisting with the tremendous agricultural program carried on. The agent has been very happy to receive the warm welcome upon his return to Whatcom county. Although it has been ten years since the agent left the county, a very large number of old acquaintances were to be found on his return.

The Agent gave a talk at the Western Washington College of Education on the AAA program and its features. The students were very much interested in how the plan was organized and is progressing in the various counties of this nation.

Mr. Fred Frasier introduced the new agent to the farmers of the county at the annual Dairy and Poultry picnic which was attended by five or six thousand people. This picnic was held soon after the new agent arrived in the county.

Another talk was made to the poultrymen at the annual meeting of the Chick Association which was held at the North Bellingham Grade School Auditorium with an attendance of 300. This meeting didn't seem to be new as many of the poultrymen were acquainted with the agent when he was located in this county ten years ago.

The annual Chamber of Commerce farmers' get-together was attended, at which there was an attendance of about 300. This year the Chamber of Commerce entertained the farmers of the county, and they had as their guest speaker Claudius O. Johnson, of the State College of Washington, who gave a most inspiring patriotic address. The agent assisted the Chamber of Commerce in securing names of farmers who had not previously been invited to the banquet.

The first annual meeting of Standard Plan Testing Association, which is directed by Lewis Mikota, was attended by the Agent. Mr. Otto J. Hill, Extension Dairy Specialist; and Joe Knott, Dairy Husbandman from the State College of Washington, gave a very inspiring talk to the members of the association.



Whatcom County farmers visiting Flax Plants
In Oregon

Annual Narrative Report of F. W. Frasier
County Extension Agent, Whatcom County
For the Period
November 1, 1941 to August 1, 1941

Period of Service

The agent reported for duty in Whatcom County March 1, 1932 to succeed L. N. Freimann as Assistant Extension Agent in Poultry. He served in this capacity until June 4, 1934 when the duties of Acting County Agent were assumed in the absence of Harry B. Carroll, County Agent. In August, 1935 the Board of County Commissioners concurred with the recommendations of F. E. Balmer, Director of Extension, and the writer was appointed County Extension Agent. In this capacity the agent served until August 1, 1941 when he accepted a position at the State Extension Office as Extension Poultryman.

The first few days in August were devoted to assisting L. N. Freimann, newly appointed County Extension Agent to become acquainted with office records, procedure, projects, and extension cooperators. While a part of the extension program in Whatcom County, excellent cooperation was given by all organizations and groups directly or indirectly interested in the farm and home. This cooperation is essential to a successful extension program, and what results have been achieved was made possible by the cooperation of the people of the county.

Soil Conservation

Forty-one days were devoted to the work of the agricultural conservation program during the eight months. Thirty-five meetings with an attendance of 622 were held. A large number of meetings were held by committeemen at which the agent was not present. Three thousand, seven hundred and eleven office calls were cared for. Nine farms and home visits were made. Thirty-four press articles and 42 circular letters were issued in regard to the A.A.A. Program. Twelve radio talks in regard to the Program were given over the K.V.O.S. Farm and Home Program. In addition to the radio talks given, there were many radio plugs given to radio station KVOS for their use between programs on special events of the AAA in Whatcom County. In cooperation with the county agricultural conservation committee consisting of R. P. Duxbury, Chairman; William C. Noteboom, Vice-Chairman; and Eugene Roberts, third committeemen, the community committeemen of which there are 27, and other officers of the association, the county agent supervised the educational meetings held in the county and the various sign-up meetings held for securing phosphate orders and the general sign-up.

One of the most important projects in connection with the agricultural conservation program was the large distribution made of 20 per cent super phosphate to the farmers for the payment which they would otherwise get in cash. In 1940, 840.2 tons of triple super phosphate for 1,275 farmers was used under this phase of the program. During 1941, 52 train carloads totalling 2,159.75 tons were delivered to 1655 farmers. This amount of 20 per cent super phosphate is equivalent to 959.5 tons of triple super phosphate. This is a 14.25 per cent increase in the amount of fertilizer for the county and a 29.8 per cent increase in the number of farmers participating in the program. It represents approximately 1/5 of all of the government super phosphate coming into the state of Washington in 1941. It took a lot of hard work, interest, and organizational work on the part of the county committee and their community committeemen as well as the office staff in order to put this program across. The cooperation of the rural press and the radio was very instrumental in getting the publicity out to the farmers of the county and to help interest them in the program.

The phosphate program was as instrumental in interesting a large group of farmers in the agricultural conservation program as any one thing that has been attempted. 1941 was the first year that the county agent and the secretary of the organization and clerks from the office did not attend the community sign-up meetings to give the committeemen assistance. The office took care of all publicity and sending notices of the meetings to members of the association. The 2,228 farmers that attended these meetings is the largest by several hundred of any previous year. It demonstrated that farm committeemen can handle their program and that farmers can be educated to attend their community meetings to work with their neighbor farmers in making out the necessary papers for the program and to discuss their coming farm plans.

On the afternoon of December 6, 1940, the county convention was held with a representative of each of the nine communities present. Those elected for the 1941 year were R. P. Duxbury, Chairman; William C. Noteboom, Vice-Chairman; and Eugene Roberts, Third Committeemen; A. Pederson, First Alternate; J. L. Dykes, Second Alternate; Ann Henderson, Treasurer; and the county agent, F. W. Frasier, secretary. At the convention the agent acted as secretary and presented a report of the operations of the association.

The county committee, the chief clerk, and the agent attended the state AAA conference at Spokane, January 13 to 16, 1941. The agent served on the educational committee and acted as secretary. The others also served on different committees. The agent prepared material and data for a five-minute talk given by R. P. Duxbury, chairman of the conservation association, at the Spokane meeting.

On February 10, 1941 a meeting of all community conservation committeemen was held with the county committee, the county agent, State Committeeman C. W. Peters, and Western Washington Fieldman Claude Wilson. During the day the agent presented the sound moving picture film, "Plows, Planes, and Peace," assisted Radio Station KVOS in cutting a transcription record which was broadcast over KVOS Tuesday evening, March 4, at 9:30 P.M. Notices of the transcription broadcast over KVOS were sent to all community committeemen and Grange secretaries of the county so there would be a large audience listening. On the evening of February 10, the agent met with the county committee and the seed dealers of the county. The purpose of this meeting was to acquaint dealers with the details of the conservation program and to consult with them about the handling of sales slips and how the two groups could be of mutual assistance.

At this meeting the agent also presented the sound moving picture film "Plows, Planes, and Peace." Through the effort of the Extension Service and the conservation committeemen between 35 and 40 farm men and women journeyed to Mount Vernon to hear Carl Olson tell of the situation in Europe and how the outcome of the war probably will affect American agriculture. This meeting was held on March 5, 1941.

During the year \$21,074.37 was distributed to farmers in the form of U. S. Treasury checks. In addition to this, \$30,051.97 had been deducted for triple super phosphate, received as grant of aid. \$1,874.13 was the amount issued to 38 sugar beet growers. Parity payments for wheat amounted to \$589.01.

On April 8, two members of the county committee with the county agent previewed the picture "Men Who Grow Wheat" with the thought in mind that it might be suitable for a businessmen's meeting. That opportunity to present it to businessmen came when a previously arranged Rotary Club program fell through and the chairman of the program committee of the club, and who was present when the committee previewed the film, asked to have it shown at their meeting on April 14. The picture was shown on that day by County Agent Frasier to about 125 businessmen. They reacted to it very favorably.

The county agent cooperating with the home demonstration agent worked very closely with the county agricultural conservation committee in supervising and conducting the cotton mattress making program. A more detailed report of this phase of the cooperative relationships between extension, AAA, and SMA, will be found later in the report.

Inasmuch as the ACP program in Whatcom County was conducted by joint efforts of the Extension Service and the AAA committeemen and both were housed in the Federal Building in Bellingham, in space allotted to the extension service, the county agent supervised practically all of the office work of the AAA. Much credit for the success of the program is due to the fine cooperation of the county conservation committee; the community committeemen; the clerical help in the office; Mr. Claude Wilson, Western Washington Fieldman; Mr. R. M. Turner, Assistant Director of Extension; Mr. Claus W. Peters, State Conservation Committeeman for Western Washington; Mr. Theodore White, District Compliance Supervisor; The Rural Press; Radio Station KVOS; and organizations in the county such as the Grange and practically all of those directly or indirectly interested in agriculture in the county.

Annual Report of F. W. Frasier

LAND USE

Mr. R. M. Turner was in the County January 20 and 21. At this time, he discussed the land use accomplishment and plans for the near future. At this time, it was tentatively decided the Agent should proceed to call a meeting of representatives of the federal, state and county people primarily interested in the agricultural program. It was decided the meeting would be an all-day one with a noon luncheon. Such a meeting was arranged for February 26. The extension office had typed copies of the Whatcom County program building report and a separate sheet outlining what had been done by the various agencies on the recommendations of the farmers in the program building report.

The Extension Office sent out all letters advising the various people of the meeting and on February 25, Mr. Earl Hupp, State Land Use Specialist for the Extension Service came into the County and worked with the Agent on that day and the morning of the 26th. The meeting was held beginning with a noon luncheon on the 26th and those present were:

C. H. Flory, Supervisor of the Mount Baker National Forest; Joe Anderson, Chairman of the Whatcom County Planning Commission; Wm. Chapin, Supervisor of the Local Soil Conservation Nursery; Louis King, County Horticultural Inspector for Whatcom County; Eleanore Davis, Home Economics; Joe Carter, Assistant Secretary of the National Farm Loan Association; Walter Knaack, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Farm Loan Association; Gus Youngquist, from the Skagit County N.F.L.A.; George Sprouse, of the Puget Sound Production Credit for this area; R. P. Duxbury, Chairman of the Pomona Grange Agricultural Committee; Harry Gleason, Assistant Extension Agent in Agriculture for Whatcom County; James Richardson, Assistant Supervisor of the Farm Security Administration; James Kirk, Assistant Horticultural Inspector in Whatcom County; F.F.A.'s; B. M. Davenport, chairman of the County Program Building Committee; F. W. Frasier, Whatcom County Extension Agent; and Ward Vander Griend, Supervisor of the Farm Security Administration in Whatcom County.

Mr. Gaff McGlinn, County Property Agent and Miss Florence Rorvick, Home Supervisor of the Farm Security Administration, were invited but could not attend.

The Agent presided at the meeting and conducted an information discussion of the Program Building recommendations and what action had been taken on them to date. Following the discussion of the Lake Terrill recommendations, Mr. Joe Anderson, Chairman of the County Planning Commission, said that he would take this matter up with the Planning Commission, look into it further and determine what could be done. Mr. R. P. Duxbury offered the cooperation of the Agricultural Committee of Pomona Grange.

Other than what had been reported in the annual report of the County Agent, none of the representatives of the agencies present indicated as having conducted work on recommendations of the County Land Use Committee. (Exhibit letter February 20 attached.)

Problems which were brought up and on which some attention needs to be given were (1) Lack of water supply for domestic use in certain areas of the county, by Walter Knaack. Ward Vander Griend indicated the F.S.A. might help by setting up cooperative water facilities for domestic use, but would need the support of the land committee. (2) The need of more demonstrations on fertilizer and insect control, by Louis King, County Horticultural Inspector. (3) Farms in the county are changing hands too rapidly because of the demand for farm lands, by Ward Vander Griend. He stated the landlords are capitalizing on the demand by raising rentals and not offering long time leases. He thought perhaps the land use committee could help determine a fair set up when a family rents a farm. (4) There are too many families locating on the H Street Road near Blaine, where the soil is not suitable for farming purposes. (5) The problem of poor herd sires being distributed by string butchers needs some attention, by George Sprouse. It was mentioned that formation of bull clubs and artificial breeding associations might tend to counteract this practice.

The meeting adjourned at four o'clock, after a motion was made by Mr. C. H. Flory and seconded by Walter Knaack that the organization become more or less permanent, meet quarterly, and F. W. Frasier, and Ward Vander Griend act as the chairman and secretary respectively in calling and holding the meetings.

The agent conferred with B. M. Davenport, County Program Building Committee Chairman, about holding a meeting to discuss F. E. Salmer's memorandum number 64, titled "Needed Agricultural plans for National Defense and the Preliminary Recommendations for a Unified State Agricultural Program to Meet the Impact of War." A letter was prepared by the Agent and sent to the Land Use Committeemen, and others of the Program Building Committees, to come to a meeting in the Extension office, Wednesday evening, April 2.

The evening of April 2, members of the Land Use Committee, AAA Committee, and other Program Building Committees met in Bellingham to discuss four national defense questions submitted by the USDA. Committee members each interpreted the questions as they could, decided to hold meetings in their own communities, and return for a second get-together April 23. The meeting on the 23d was held, and recommendations of the Land Use Committee prepared. The material was written up by the Agent and submitted to the State Office.

Mr. E. E. Hupp met with representatives of agricultural agencies of the county on April 21, where the same four questions were considered. The recommendations of this group were submitted to the Land Use Committee on the 23rd, and some of them were made a part of the final recommendations. (Exhibit letters attached.)

In relation to a recommendations of the County Land Use Committee concerning the South Pass Area, Mr. Harry Carroll, State Coordinator of the SCS; Harry Aas, Assistant Regional Conservator; and Mr. Orlo Krauter,

Supervisor of the SCS for Western Washington, came into the county on April 17, and with the Agent made a tour of the area during the afternoon. As a result of this tour, Mr. Harry Ade prepared a short report of what the possibilities would be of the SCS working in the area.

At the request of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, a sub-committee of the Land Use Committee, composed of three farmers, and with whom the Agent met, prepared a report on family size farms. This report was submitted to Mr. Ed Landerholm on January 23.

During the month the land use map was loaned to the agricultural class of the Bellingham High School.

Mr. W. Knaack, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Farm Loan Association, spent about an hour with the agent discussing land use committee work, and secured land use bulletins for his reference.

DAIRY

Most of the dairy work was done by Mr. Harry Gleason during his time of service this past year, however, the Agent worked closely with Mr. Gleason and Mr. Guy Anderson in connection with the dairy herd program work.

The Agent worked with Mr. Guy Anderson in arranging for the annual meeting of the Owner-Sampler Dairy Herd Improvement Association, which was held Friday afternoon, November 29 in the Lynden City Hall. Arrangements for the help of Mr. R. M. Turner, Assistant Extension Director and Mr. Floyd Wolberg, Dairyman from the Western Washington Experiment Station, was made through the County Extension Office. This was the largest annual meeting of the Association which has been held for some years, and those present were very much pleased with the information brought to them by both Mr. Turner and Mr. Wolberg, as well as the annual report of Mr. Guy Anderson. To assist with the meeting, the Office mimeographed 350 letters which were sent to the membership and other parties who would be interested in the meetings and activities of the Association. Mr. Anderson's report showed a very healthy growth of the Association over the past year, and in addition, showed that more cows were on test than at any time in the history of the Association.

The Agent attended a meeting of the Directors of the Owner-Sampler Plan at the Lynden City Hall the evening of March 13. During the 8 months' service in the county, some time was devoted to discussing plans with Mr. Gleason and Mr. Anderson for improving the Owner-Sampler DHIA. Also some time was spent in checking over plans with Mr. Gleason and Louis Mikota concerning the Standard plan DHIA and particularly the annual meeting of the Standard Plan Association. In Mr. Freimann's, Mr. Gurtle's, and Mr. Anderson's report, there will be more comprehensive information about both of these organizations and their progress as compared to past years.

In compliance with a request from F. E. Balmer, Director of Extension, the Agent made a quick survey on June 12 of the increase in the production of cheese and butter in Whatcom County preparatory to attending a meeting on the 13th in Seattle. The morning of the 13th, the Agent drove to Seattle, picking up County Agent Valentine from Skagit County on the way down and attended the noon luncheon meeting of the Directors of the United Dairymen's Association. At this meeting were Mr. Roy Jones, Extension Dairyman for the 11 Western States; Dr. Otto J. Hill, Extension Dairyman for the State College of Washington; and official of the United Dairymen's Association. The discussion centered about what might be the most practical method for farmers and processors to increase production without jeopardizing conditions which may arise later on. It was generally agreed among processors, producers and Extension workers that farmers should be encouraged to increase their production efficiently, particularly through management and feeding methods rather than building barns and increasing the size of the herds.

The evening of the 19th, the Agent attended a meeting at the Leopold Hotel in which there were dairymen from Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom counties discussing the Bang's disease program with the new Director of Agriculture, Cox. The Agent was called on by Dr. Exline to tell how the Federal Bang's program was working in Whatcom county. The Agent explained that the farmers were apparently very well satisfied with the opportunity they have under the program but that they would like to have more veterinarians on the job so that the work could progress more rapidly.

On the evening of February 5, the Agent attended a meeting of about 100 farmers in the Lynden High School, where Mr. R. B. LeCocq and Henry Shagren and others were conducting a discussion of the Federal Bang's Disease vaccination program. A few brief remarks were made by the Agent. This meeting was one of the three held throughout the county to get the reaction of the dairymen in adopting the program as offered by the Bureau of Animal Industry. The result of the votes taken at these meetings was in favor of declaring Whatcom County a closed area and making the Bang's disease test compulsory with vaccination offered as an adjunct. On February 24, Director of Agriculture Walter J. Robinson declared Whatcom County a compulsory test county.

The afternoon of February 3, Guy Anderson, Louis Mikota and Harry Gleason met with the Agent to discuss the possibility of setting up an artificial breeding association in Whatcom County. Before calling a meeting of dairymen to do this, it was decided to conduct a survey to determine how many cows could be signed up. Up to March 1 only about 400 cows were signed up. This represented only about one-third needed to establish an association.

The Agent attended the meeting of the Whatcom County Dairymen's Association all day on February 15.

Assistance was given to Harry J. Allyn, Editor of the Northwest Farm News, and Harry Gleason in getting a delegation of farmers to attend a meeting in Seattle on May 8 to hear D. O. E. Reid of the USDA. Mr. Gleason was in charge of this particular activity for the Extension Office.

POULTRY

Because Whatcom County had Mr. Carl Stock as Assistant Agent in Poultry and devoting about 90 per cent of his time to this project, the Agent did very little to work with the Poultrymen except to discuss matters of policy with Mr. Stock and occasionally answer office calls when he was absent. Several times the Agent prepared and gave poultry talks over the radio for Mr. Stock.

At the request of Mr. B. C. Young, the Agent visited the Paul Fullner farm in the Lawrence Community the afternoon of May 13 to assist, if possible in analyzing the pullet management problems with which Mr. Fullner has been confronted for the past two years. At the time the farm was visited, the particular problem was of several weeks' duration. As a result of the visit, during which Carl Stock, Assistant Agent in Poultry, and Dr. S. S. Worley, Veterinarian, were present, several live birds were sent to the Western Washington Experiment Station for diagnosis for disease if present. More details about this particular job will probably be found in the annual report of Mr. Carl Stock.

FARM CROPS

Mr. Harry Gleason was primarily responsible for the farm crop work in the Whatcom County Extension Office, but the Agent assisted in the project from time to time and particularly in cooperative relationships with the AAA did carry on a rather extensive program. This phase of the work is reported under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

At the request of Helmer Basso, Assistant Extension Agent in Lewis County, arrangements were made to secure 1300 pounds of certified White Rose seed potatoes for 4-H Club members of Lewis County. These potatoes were secured from Harkoff and Waples and were grown on the Francisco farm.

During 1941, no work was done in connection with the sugar beet seed project. Following two years of putting in trial plots, the west coast sugar beet seed committee decided Whatcom County was a suitable place to raise sugar beet seed. Mr. Phil Iverson was appointed representative of the beet seed committee and contracted for acreage in the county as well as in Skagit and Snohomish. Only approximately 30 acres came through the winter of 1940 in good shape that were probably harvested in August of 1941. This is out of a total of 50 acres that were planted. Some of the growers got their seed in too late and did not take very good care of it.

Since beets for seed have not had an opportunity to show how resistant they are to the cold winters we have in Whatcom County ordinarily, too much emphasis or encouragement was not given by the Extension Service to the growers to plant this crop. Undoubtedly, Mr. L. N. Freimann, County Agent will report some indication as to the results secured after the beet seed was harvested. The previous two years' record of the trial planting can be found in the files of the Extension Office in Bellingham.

The Agent answered many questions on silage and crops during his 8 months' service. One radio talk titled, "Phosphate, a Soil Builder" was prepared and presented in the interest of the farm crop program and the AAA. One visit was made to the grass plots put in by Harry Gleason at the Washington Cooperative Egg and Poultry Association Plant at Lynden. A 100-pound bag of Western Phosphate rock was secured from the mine at Conda, Idaho for the use of the mining committee of the Whatcom County Planning Commission.

FARM WINDBREAKS

Goals for the Year

Establish one demonstration windbreak in the Lynden area.

Results

The windbreak was not established in 1941.

On December 12, Mr. James Stubbs, State Extension Forester spent the morning with the Agent in discussing, planning and arranging for a windbreak demonstration in the Lynden area. The long-time and annual work project was prepared and forwarded to the state office on January 27, 1941. Mr. James Stubbs again came in to the county and with the Agent, spent the day in the Lynden Community in the interest of establishing a windbreak project and particularly securing a cooperator.

At the suggestion of Mr. Ward Vander Griend, Farm Security Supervisor, the Agent and Mr. Stubbs spent some time with Ray Bajema, northwest of Lynden, and plans were made to establish a demonstration windbreak there if it were satisfactory with Mr. Bajema's landlord. It was satisfactory to the landlord and arrangements were made to establish the project there. The place to plant the windbreak was laid out and Mr. Stubbs drew the plans and these plans are now in the hands of Mr. Haibach, Extension Forester.

On March 18, the Agent called on Mr. Bill Chapin, Manager of the Soil Conservation Nursery at Bellingham and took him to Lynden for the purpose of making arrangements to plant trees reserved for the windbreak project on the Bajema farm. Mr. Bajema indicated that he would probably not be on the place very long and was not interested in continuing with the project. Following this, the Agent and Mr. Chapin visited several farms to discuss with the farmers the possibilities of using the trees that were to have been put out on the Bajema farm. The farm of Mr. Fred Shea looked like it would be the best proposition but Mr. Shea was not certain where his buildings would eventually be and could not believe right at the moment that he could be interested.

No further effort was made to get a farmer cooperator to establish a windbreak because it was getting late in the spring and something needed to be done with the trees. They could not be held very much longer.

ENTOMOLOGY

(The potato flea beetle)

Goals for the year

Get three farmers to raise potatoes free from potato flea beetle

Results

Two farmers were secured to raise potatoes free from potato flea beetle.

On November 23, 1940, the Agent called ten of the larger potato growers together at a meeting in the Lynden City Hall for the purpose of meeting with Mr. L. G. Smith, State Extension Entomologist and to plan a program for the year 1941 in the control of the potato flea beetle. At the meeting, Mr. Smith explained the life cycle of the insect, reported the percentage of damage in other counties, and indicated what the growers of Whatcom County are up against during the coming few years, particularly, inasmuch as insects did about 5 per cent damage in the county in 1940. Flea beetle control demonstrations were set up on the farms of Mr. Carl Brown at Nooksack, and C. R. Mattson at Clearbrook. Arrangements were completed with them to be cooperators in the flea beetle control work and Mr. Smith assisted them in getting their dusters outfitted to do satisfactory work.

Mr. Carl Brown accepted some changes in a duster being prepared for him by a blacksmith at Everson. James Kirk, Assistant Horticultural Inspector in Whatcom County, accompanied Mr. Smith and the Agent in making these arrangements, as the Horticultural Inspection Office, with Mr. Louis King in charge, will be cooperating in making sweepings of potato flea beetles in the potato fields. Mr. Smith was in the County on April 22 and again on May 5. On May 5, he brought his home-made dusting equipment with him and left it at the Carl Brown farm, preliminary to holding a demonstration for potato growers later in the month. The dusting demonstration was held on the C. O. Williams farm near Lynden on April 19. Approximately one half of the potato acreage of the county was represented. One meeting was held in the morning and one in the afternoon for convenience of potato growers. At both, information was given about the life history of the potato flea beetle and a demonstration was held in the potato field to show the use of a canvas curtain and the application of calcium arsenate.

Mr. Smith had samples of the eastern and western potato flea beetles so the farmers could see the comparison and showed them how the dusters could be adapted to dusting peas, potatoes, raspberries, and miscellaneous farm crops. A total of 65 people were in attendance at both meetings. During the summer, Mr. Louis King, Mr. Kirk and the representative from the Extension Office visited the demonstration plot at least once a week and made sweepings for potato flea beetle.

Each time a farm was visited, the farm visitation record sheet was sent to the Extension Office. Since the project was still under way when the Agent left the county, August 1, a summarization of the project will be found in the report of Gale G. Gurtle.

During the time Mr. Smith was in the county, he also assisted some of the raspberry growers with their insect problems. Their main problem was the raspberry fruit worm. One half of one per cent rotenone dust will control the insects and this recommendation was made to the raspberry farmers.

Several pea fields were visited by the Agent and Mr. Smith and sweepings were made for the sitona weevil but none were found.

At the request of a farmer in the Victor Community the agent demonstrated the use of rotenone dust in control of flea beetles on cabbage and kale on his farm.

One radio talk was prepared by the Agent on the carrot rust fly. The Agent brought to the attention of the Grangers at Orchard the seriousness of the carrot rust fly and the method of control, and answered a number of general questions asked by the Grangers present.

The day to day questions that are answered for farm people on the control of insects is one of the most important jobs done in Entomology. The demand on the Extension Office for control of insect recommendations is enormous.

Some help was given to Mr. Howard Brown, Bee Inspector for northwest Washington in regard to the Northwest Washington Bee Keepers Association meetings. This help was in the form of news articles and letters to County Agents and bee keepers in the County. Mr. Brown indicated that occasionally he had some difficulty in definitely differentiating between the diseases European and American foul brood. Since both of the diseases are caused by a bacillus, a contact was established between Mr. Brown and Mr. Wilson Bow of the County Health Department. The use of the high-powered microscope in the identification of the two different kinds of foul broods would help Mr. Brown definitely diagnose the difference between the two diseases.

On November 23, the Agent, with Mr. Laurel Smith, visited the O. L. Sheets farm to see the duster he had made for use in controlling red spider. Mr. Smith, in response to questions to Mr. Sheets, gave him a number of suggestions on how to improve the machine to get more effective results.

HORTICULTURE

In the Horticulture Project the important things done during the period of service was the conducting of a strawberry and raspberry school, continuence and maintenance of the strawberry fertilizer plot on the Arthur Brue farm in the Roeder district, the continuence of the filbert pruning plot at Cedarbrook Nut Farm near Nooksack, the establishment of a pruning and shaping demonstration on Gravenstein apples on the L. Bruemmer farm near Everson, the introduction of Cascade Berry plant, and introduction of six varieties of Hybrad sweetcorn furnished by the Western Washington Experiment Station.

The Horticultural School was held at the Lynden city hall with Dr. John Snyder, Extension Horticulturist, and Laurel Smith, Extension Entomologist, and L. W. King as the principal participants. The idea of conducting one-half day school for strawberry men and one-half day for raspberry men brought a fairly good attendance of these growers.

On March 13, Dr. John Snyder assisted the Agent in pruning the filbert pruning plots at the Cedarbrook Nut Farm and establishing a pruning and shaping demonstration Gravenstein apples. A number of pictures were taken on the pruning work and those taken by both the Agent and Dr. Snyder are now on file in the State Extension Office. A part of the fertilizer of the strawberry fertilizer plot on the Arthur Brue farm was applied in the fall of 1940 and the other part in the spring of 1941. A table showing the plan of the plot is in the 1940 Whatcom County Extension Service Report and the summary of this year's work can be found in Mr. L. N. Freimann's 1941 report.

The analysis of the filbert fertilizer plots and the strawberry fertilizer plots for 1940 were prepared and sent to Mr. Louis Bruemmer, and Mr. Arthur Brue during the month. These two plots were conducted in 1941.

On April 19, the Agent stopped in at the Oscar Hougan farm to go over the branches on the gravenstein apple tree which had been thinned last year. The tree was just dropping its blossom petals. A report was made to Dr. John Snyder as to the comparison of the blossoms of the thinned branch as compared to the rest of the tree and other trees.

While attending the Western Washington Experiment Station-Extension Service conference April 24 and 25, the Agent with Chester Schwartz, horticulturist of the Station; and L. N. Freimann, then County Agent of Island County, visited several plantings of the Washington raspberry where the vitality of the plants could be compared with the old Cuthbert. Several pictures were taken showing the difference in vigor of the two plants.

Mr. Schwartz was prevailed upon to come to Whatcom County on the 29th to visit the Wildberger planting of Washington raspberries, where some trouble is being experienced. Mr. Schwartz and the Agent visited the Wildberger farm and spent about half a day there going

through the patch collecting samples and discussing the problems with the grower. Mr. Schwartz thought the trouble on the Wildberger farm was raspberry blight instead of a virous disease. However, he took specimens back to Puyallup for examination by the plant pathologist. While there, the Agent brought to the attention of Mr. Wildberger the beginning of an infestation of raspberry fruit worm, which was in the beetle stage, and suggested that he start dusting within a week or ten days, with rotenone dust, ($\frac{1}{2}$ per cent) and apply 3 applications.

The same day Mr. Schwartz and the Agent visited Mr. O. L. Sheets to find out if he was interested in setting out a new berry, number 1084, which shows promise of being an improvement over the Marshal strawberry. Mr. Sheets was not interested this year, as he could not isolate the planting from his regular marshals, as it was suggested by Mr. Schwartz, due to the possibility that the 1084 carried a root rot disease that did not effect it, but could transmit it to another. Arrangements were made, tentatively, that plants would be given to Mr. Sheets during the spring of 1942.

A stop was made at the Frank Cramer farm to see one acre of Olympic berries, but the berries had been pulled out, as Mrs. Cramer stated that it was difficult to get labor to harvest them, and they felt it was not practical to continue the planting. It is unfortunate, in a way, that this planting was taken out, because it was the only one of any size in the county, and it offered an opportunity to study them from the standpoint of winter hardiness. During the last three winters it has not been cold enough to determine winter hardiness on various horticultural plants.

Cascade berry plants brought back from Puyallup were distributed to various places in the county, with the request that the people tip several canes this fall and pass on a plant or two to their neighbors.

Varieties of highbred sweetcorn furnished to the Extension Office by Dr. Schwartz of the Western Washington Experiment Station were distributed to six places for observation. Those making observations were P. Jensvold, Eugene Roberts, R. P. Duxbury, Eugene Schuh, F. W. Frasier and a party whom Carl Stock gave some seed to. The only observations the Agents had an opportunity to make before leaving the County were that all varieties were growing well and there was a marked difference in the maturity time, even though they were all planted on the same date.

Part of one afternoon was devoted to going to the farm of Dr. W. A. Hulbush, who was going to plant one and one-half acres of peaches in the spring of 1941. He planted Pacific Golds and a few Veterans.

The agent prepared the horticulture project for 1941 and sent it to the State Office.

Mr. Arthur Kirk, a large certified seed potato producer was given help in regard to the construction of suitable potato storage units. Because of the large acreage of certified potatoes, there

was quite a demand for available bulletin material for construction details of potato storage units.

On November 29, the Agent attended the annual meeting of the State Certified Seed Potato Growers in Lynden during their morning session, with Mr. R. M. Turner. Mr. Laurel Smith presented a talk on the potato flea beetle.

The evening of May 15, the Agent attended a meeting of the Certified Seed Potato Growers called by Charles Gaines, State Seed Inspector. The meeting was held at Lynden and was for the purpose of making decisions on grades of certified seed potatoes and talking over certain diseases particularly those of the virus type.

At a father and son banquet at the Bellingham Chapter of the PSA, the Agent showed a series of colored Horticultural pictures of work being done on this subject at the Western Washington Experiment Station. The pictures were furnished the Agent by Mr. C. Schwartze, Horticulturist at the Western Washington Experiment Station.

On Saturday, March 31, the Agent attended the National Flower and Garden Show at Seattle. This was a very educational show and the information learned there was useful in the Extension program. One radio talk on Lawns was prepared but was given by Eleanor Davis for the Agent.