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COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

This is an informal report on a trip to South Carolina I made with Everett C. Norberg, Office of Plant and Operations, to visit county agricultural centers in that State, December 11-17, 1949. We took train to Spartanburg, S.C., arriving there about 11 a.m. the 12th, where we procured a somewhat temperamental and eccentric Pontiac car from the district office of SCS. The remainder of the trip was made by automobile. All points visited were in South Carolina and the name of the county and the county seat were the same unless otherwise specified.

T. Swann Harding, Office of Information.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The building and financing of the county agricultural centers in South Carolina differ wholly from the process in New York State. Except for Anderson, all the centers we visited were WPA jobs erected by the usual method of the county sponsoring Federal funds with some matching payment. It was practically impossible to arrive at any accurate estimate of what the buildings cost. A good deal of local initiative was represented in the effort to channel WPA funds to this use, but there were no local contributions by farmers and no fund-raising schemes.

South Carolina has 46 counties of which 25 have agricultural buildings and 10 more badly need better housing for agriculture now, while some of the existing buildings are very crowded and outgrown. Strong efforts are being made to get a centralized building in Spartanburg. We visited the centers in Anderson, Saluda, Aiken, Barnwell, Hampton, Walterboro (Colleton Cty.), Orangeburg, Sumter, Florence, Marion, Dillon, Darlington, Camden (Kershaw Cty.), and some of the offices in Spartanburg.

Other counties having centers which we did not visit are Berkeley, Cherokee, Clarendon, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Laurens--which had to be covered by

telephone because the Pontiac collapsed, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, and Williamsburg.

The buildings ranged all the way from palatial Anderson to rather small and inadequate structures. Maintenance varied from what looked like practically none at all to an effort to make the building clean and attractive externally and internally. All the county agents had been notified in advance both of our visit and the kind of information we wanted; their reactions varied from providing the most complete and detailed facts, whether they could be present or not, to an entire failure to do anything at all.

Broadly speaking there is no fixed system of getting county agricultural centers erected, but the general pattern was WPA everywhere we went except Anderson. Usually the county agent and Extension Service took the initiative, often thinking of Extension only and not of the other Federal agencies at all, to get Extension properly housed. The matter had first to be taken up with the county legislative delegations, the members of the S.C. Senate and Legislature from the county in question which group in this State, operates the counties. Each county has its own appropriation bill enacted by the Legislature, and the county commissioners or supervisors do little more than carry out the authorizations and provisions embodied in such legislation. If the legislative delegation wanted a county agricultural building it usually got one through the WPA sponsoring system. In Anderson it got one through direct taxation. In some instances the Farm Bureau aided powerfully. However, there seems to be no State committee studying or sponsoring the centers as in New York.

The distribution and readership of USDA was reported excellent in every instance; all field offices get it regularly. However, it comes later to Extension than to any other agencies and sometimes two consecutive issues

reach Extension together; at other times the county agent gets 2 copies of the current issue but does not realize the extra one is for the home demonstration agents and discards it.

The most common need here is for better building maintenance. This should include repainting, particularly in lighter tones which reflect rather than absorb the light; modern fluorescent or other lighting systems -- as the lighting is often eye-straining and wholly inadequate; sound-absorbent ceilings-- which are present in only some buildings; asphalt tile flooring, which exists hardly anywhere; some effort to beautify the exterior with grass plots, shrubs, and evergreens; and generally better care -- external and internal --, cleaning, and ordinary janitor service. If it were possible central information desks and a central telephone switchboard would help a great deal, but this often may not be possible as county, State, and Federal agencies other than the USDA are often also in occupancy. Certainly something should be done to make the listings in the telephone directories more informative, while highway markers pointing to the buildings would be of assistance in some large towns. Finally, many of the buildings could themselves be much better marked and identified and a board inside the front door giving the location of each agency there with names of the principals would be a great convenience. Visitors would thus avoid much floundering around to find the buildings and the individuals they want to see.

RUNNING ACCOUNT OF THE TRIP

We arrived at Spartanburg about 11 a.m. December 12 and found County Agent W. J. Martin in his office in the Post Office Building. Dr. T. S. Buie, Regional Conservator for SCS, was in Washington; FHA Supervisor C. W. Rainey and the PMA administrative officer, J. O. Patterson, were both out on business. County Agent Martin stressed the urgent need for a central building to accommodate all agencies;

those in the Post Office as well as PMA have very poor parking space and all agencies are separately located, SCS having largely taken over the 10-story Montgomery Building. Extension lacks an auditorium and it has great difficulty holding meetings because the one auditorium the city has is so rarely available for Government agencies. They would have to pay to use the school auditorium but lack funds. The courtrooms are seldom vacant. We secured the car, which was in bad condition and tried to asphyxiate us, and proceeded to Anderson where the Pontiac went to the usual SCS repair shop and we to the \$400,000 agricultural center which was by far the best we had ever seen and is probably the best in the U.S. It is a fine U-shaped brick building of 2 stories, with 27,188 square feet of floor space, and was occupied December 1, 1948. The basement has 5,060 square feet and here are located the artificial insemination laboratory, the colored Extension workers, toilets, rest rooms, storage, the janitor's room, the boiler room, and coal. This was the only center we visited where colored Extension workers were housed with the white. The first and second floors have 11,064 square feet each. On the first floor are located the market, home demonstration agent, county agent, the PMA, and the FLB, toilets and rest rooms. On the second floor are PCA, FHA, SCS, the forester, the auditorium, an unassigned office or so, toilets and rest rooms. County Agent J. H. Hopkins did a fine job of providing the information we needed, escorted us through the building, and enabled us to meet the heads of other agencies there. Among those in the building were C. J. Marett, the FHA supervisor; George Meares of SCS; Joe McGee of PMA; and Hugh Agnew and Major Pruitt of PCA and FLB. These two agencies pay rent. The Farm Bureau and the State rural rehabilitation offices rent space in the building and the vo-ag has an office. The building is county-owned and county-operated; it is clean and well-cared for. Former County Agent E. P. Josey took the initiative in getting the agencies together in it and out of their scattered, inadequate rented quarters. A building commission of farm people was appointed. The Federal agencies and the

county legislative delegation were active, especially the State Senator J. B. Pruitt, who is said to have done most of all to bring the project to success; he and the members of his delegation were given the principal credit by Mr. Martin. A few mils had been added to the tax rate to finance remodeling of the court house. When this was done the proposal was made that the rate be continued at the level to finance the building for agriculture and this was done. All Federal agencies were contacted. SCS at first thought it could not come into the new building because space in a Federal building, the P. O., was available to it, but it had moved in sometime before our arrival though people in the P. O. assured us it was still in their basement! SCS does not, of course, pay rent here. The county furnished the furniture and equipment for Extension on rather a lavish scale. An earlier project to buy the old P.O. building for use as an agricultural center was abandoned. Nothing is owed on the new center building. Anderson County has 6,371 farms, about a half million acres, and an annual agricultural income around \$12 millions. There is a very close working arrangement here between all agencies and they get together in regular monthly meetings, each agency being represented, while there is a rotating chairmanship. Bureau lines are emphasized as little as possible. Farmers find the set-up ideal. Meeting and parking spaces are ample. The farm market in the building is an outgrowth of a community club market. Extension has the processing, folding, and addressing machines. The auditorium seats 370. All in all the building was adequate, uncrowded, and well maintained. All counties would not need a center so large but for a county of this size such a building as that at Anderson is just about right. In this county a combination of progressive leadership by the State legislative delegation and wealthy farmers produced the building.

On December 13 we were unable to leave Anderson on schedule because the SCS Pontiac was indisposed and complete repairs took until nearly 11 a.m.

Meanwhile I phoned C. B. Cameron, county agent for Laurens County, only to find that there was really no agricultural center there, only an Extension building which Extension people often mistake for an agricultural center. The county forester, breeder's association, FHA, SCS, and PMA were all elsewhere in the county seat, while the PCA was elsewhere 8 miles away. It is often a little difficult for Extension to remember that there are other agencies concerned with agriculture when a center is planned, and it is likely to refer to an Extension building as an agricultural center. The building at Laurens cost \$9,885.75 and C. B. Cameron was county agent; he was insistent that we call by if possible, but we lacked time. The building houses 6 offices, a conference room, and an auditorium that seats 250, and it was completed and occupied in 1937. The county delegation arranged a direct appropriation of funds to erect it and the county commissioner had annually earmarked funds for its maintenance. Extension worked closely with the other agencies even though they were scattered. Cameron also acted as custodian of the building, which was really an Extension enterprise. He said it was the first such building in the U.S. that the county made an appropriation by special act of the legislature to construct and that he was simply not politician enough ever to get WPA money; no Federal funds at all were involved. Cameron said he was never able to get the other agencies to agree to come into the building which did not seem large enough to accommodate them anyway.

We then proceeded to Saluda where there was a small poorly kept center with F. M. Kearse, county agent; and H. J. Forrest, PMA administrative officer in occupancy. James S. Corley, FHA supervisor, was elsewhere; only Extension and PMA were in the building. The center was a WPA project and Extension had previously been in the courthouse; as usual the legislative delegation decided on sponsoring the building and county officers merely carried out its wishes.

The building and its lot probably cost little in 1936. Kearsse understood that it was the oldest center in the U.S. The county got its part of the contribution, possibly \$2,000, out of taxes during one year--maintenance, fuel, water, light, is by the county though there is a small maintenance fund, but there are no rentals. Before it moved in here PMA could get only one room in the courthouse and, when the grand jury met, it could not have that. The county agent also had been cramped. It was Claude Rothell, the previous county agent, who had most to do with getting the county delegation to sponsor the building. It is brick, 1-story, and there are several adequate auditoriums readily available in Saluda. But the delegation now wishes the building was much larger. The county of Saluda has 2,400 census farms and an annual income of about \$7½ millions from farming. Extension and PMA have separate processing, folding, and addressing machinery. If another story had been put on, or even 2 more rooms were added, all agencies could get in, though the meeting room was taken over now by PMA, harassed here as elsewhere by those protesting cotton allotments and the preparations for voting. If the auditorium, which is not essential here, were properly partitioned off, FHA could get in. The PCA was downtown in Saluda--a branch office only.

We proceeded to the beautiful town of Aiken where R. R. Mellette, the county agent, not only gave us the information we required but showed us around the town too. FHA Supervisor J. C. Watson was located elsewhere than in the building. J. E. Raffield was PMA county administrative officer and John Miley, who was out on business, represented SCS. This again was a WPA structure which had simply been added on to the courthouse when, in 1935, Extension began to promote a new building for itself. The FHA was formerly in the building but got crowded out and PMA had grown so it had taken over the auditorium. Courtrooms proved fairly adequate and convenient for meetings. There were 4,200 square feet

of space in this annex and some district Extension people had offices here too, but Extension's space also is outgrown. The county library and health service are in the building which is owned and maintained by the county. Aiken County has about 3,500 farms and is making a switch to beef cattle--Saluda had gone to dairying--to balance cotton; it was also going in heavy for peanuts. The center was really just an inadequate addition to the courthouse and was not too well kept.

On December 14 we drove to Barnwell where D. A. Shelley was county agent; T. D. Christopher was in charge for SCS; H.C. Saunders, who was out on business, for PMA; and FHA Supervisor William C. Rivers, also out on business, was housed elsewhere, in a downtown office building, for lack of space in the center. This also was a WPA project dating from about 1936 and cost the county little; the county maintains it and the county delegation was just about to order very badly needed repairs and refinishing, though there was no program to enlarge. The auditorium has always had to be used for office space. A health center and a county office building are being erected and they may take some pressure for space off the center. The courthouse is also to be remodeled and all county offices should then be housed there and in the office building, freeing the center from clamors for space from others. This was a 1-story brick building with 6 general offices and PMA in the auditorium. FHA here and elsewhere was being pounded for disaster loans but, here and elsewhere, it had not gone very far with housing loans and had relatively few applications. We saw assistant FHA supervisor E. C. Bruce who said his loan was heavy, the county was poor, and the corridors often filled recently with farmers wanting loans.

We proceeded to Hampton where C. W. Thompson, county agent, was at a district meeting. The center was a 2-story, good-looking brick building erected by WPA about 1939. C. C. Parler was top man for PMA, H. Q. Foster was FHA

supervisor, and Sanford Wolfe headed up for SCS; all agencies were housed in the building and the county library and some welfare agencies were also in, as well as the PCA. But it was admitted that PMA was hopelessly crowded and the auditorium had long since gone for office space, meetings being held in court-rooms. SCS was terribly crowded here also and PMA could readily use the entire second floor alone! Here as elsewhere this was reported as a terrible crop year because of a warm winter which had permitted insects to overwinter; they destroyed the crops making the entire State a disaster area. Agencies previously had moved from room to room in the courthouse--1 room of which had eventually been used by about every agency--until they got this county-owned and county-maintained center. We were told that P.O. space was generally unsatisfactory for agricultural units because of special arrangements that had to be made with the postmaster who was always top man. PMA had found it expensive to rent while here they pay only \$10 a month on maintenance though FHA pays \$40. Extension pays nothing. PMA is so crowded though that it would move now into rented quarters if any were available. The court clerk is arbiter here under the county delegation and there are no plans for enlargement.

We next moved on to Walterboro, Colleton County, where L. W. Alford was county agent and he had done a nice job of getting heads of other units in to meet us after we first had a talk with him. This was a well-kept building which had been erected behind the former county jail while it was also remodeled in a WPA project intended to house all county agencies. We met later in Alford's office with B. B. Cave of PCA, housed elsewhere; C. M. Ellerbe an SCS district conservationist, as its district office also was here; FHA supervisor C. P. Fishburn; and W. S. Bush the PMA county administrative officer, who was highly praised by the county agent as a fine boy. FHA also was housed elsewhere for lack of space in the center; they pay rent in a building owned by a State Senator

who, however, wants to see the center enlarged sufficiently to accommodate them, and is an ardent advocate of a larger center. SCS is very crowded -- it actually houses 7 men in a room 15 by 15--30 square feet each - and PMA has expanded into two more offices than it had originally and does fairly well for space. If SCS could find outside quarters it would gladly rent them, but it cannot. Extension previously rented. The unfinished basement here would make a good meeting room if remodeled, and they have figured on work to make it available, but are awaiting a price fall. Here as everywhere else, except Anderson, the Negro home demonstration agent and county agent are housed in rented quarters "near their people." County maintenance keeps this building up. We ate lunch across from a building which housed the Coastal Electric Co-op and other REA co-ops were fairly numerous where we went. Colleton County has about 3,000 farms. Here, as elsewhere, the PMA top man drives many miles but gets no milage for driving within his own county, which seems very unfair. This one averages 500 miles a month in his own car for official business. PMA works with maximum inconvenience, causing a great deal of running around to get things, answer the telephone and so on, its space being widely scattered over the top floor. It often looks as if we put a premium on inefficiency in field offices making it impossible for them to work efficiently. While we were in county agent Alford's office a local farmer came in to protest his cotton allotments and we were much impressed with the high objective level of the discussion on both sides--the agent was well-informed and did a fine job of explaining; the farmer--who we later learned had originally been hostile to AAA and everything like it--was also objective, reasonable, and tolerantly understanding.

We moved on to the quite large city of Orangeburg where J. C. McComb was county agent; he had gone to attend a meeting and had left no one to meet with us and no information to be made available to us. We did the best we could by floundering around under the somewhat inept guidance of his secretary. It was

a sort of county office building completed by WPA about 1940, the agricultural agencies having hitherto been crowded into the third story of the courthouse. In the building were FHA, SCS, Extension, PMA, the insemination association, and the school lunch office. The building was being repaired and repainted and needed every bit of it. New lights also were to be installed. This was a \$7,500 job all-told. It was maintained by the county, lacked auditorium or meeting space, and meetings had to be held in courtrooms which were difficult to find vacant. The building had an assembly room that would accommodate only 20. The FHA supervisor was Jerome McMichael; supervisors for the SCS work was J. B. Earle and L. L. Tillson; H. T. Corbett was county administrative officer for PMA and the PCA and FLB were located elsewhere. The building was well-maintained but our visit was not as productive as it would have been had the county agent cooperated.

On December 15 we reached Sumter where T. O. Bowen was county agent. He was out at a meeting and had left no information for us and done nothing to facilitate our getting it. However, his secretary, Jaqueline Garrett, did the best she could for us. This was a 2-story brick WPA job, making quite a fine appearance from the outside but dingy within. The lighting was terrible and must have contributed to eyestrain. The girl secretaries had done some repainting of the walls themselves, but their paint was too dark--the county generously supplied the paint. H. C. Seymour was administrative officer for PMA; W. B. Abbott represented SCS; J. A. Reames was county FHA supervisor, and W. J. Lawrence represented the PCA and FLB. The county sponsored erection of this building about 1940, WPA labor used, the usual pattern, but all agencies, State and Federal, pay rent. The county paid about \$10,000 on the sponsor fee. There is an auditorium into which PMA had moved but it was ejected later; meetings can also be held in the courthouse. A wing had been added to the building after its erection, but

PMA and SCS work were still much crowded. The county paid about \$2,000 on this wing and another is badly needed. The rentals go for upkeep and maintenance but the building is poorly maintained and most inadequately lighted though the \$12,000 investment of the county in the building has been repaid twice over in rentals. There are plans to do general repair and redecoration in 1950.

We continued to Florence where County Agent J. W. McLendon was so flustered a district Ext agent meeting that he got lost in his own center a couple of times and we had to direct him to his own office. He was rather along in years but left the meeting, had his story pat, and told us what we needed to know. This was quite a large and imposing 3-story building which we later learned it was difficult for the county to maintain. It was built about 1942 and was well kept inside. There was still a County War Board sign up and the agent insisted that the War Board still met regularly; we supposed they discussed the Civil War Between the States, so to speak, or maybe the War of 1812. The PMA was in a huge room with pay teller windows and seemed to have lots of extra space but complained of crowding. The idea for the building originated in the Ext committees and there was first talk of putting up an \$8,000 Ext building, but local people suggested to Ext that there were other agencies concerned with agriculture, so why not bring them in? PMA was terribly crowded where it was and the county paid a good deal of rent for Ext, so the county delegation was approached and eventually this \$100,000 to \$150,000 building was erected via WPA sponsorship. Red Cross and a number of other county and State agencies are in it paying rent while Federal offices and others who were already paying rent where they were agreed to continue doing so here. However, Ext got its space free. There was a district SCS office, a district FHA office, county PMA, and a district forest office in the building, as well as a county tuberculosis set-up, all paying rent. Likewise the district tobacco specialist, the State public welfare and the county public

health people were housed here. But the agent complained of crowding and he, like others elsewhere, inclined to think that the public welfare people would crowd everybody else out of buildings if they could. The rentals--about \$1,250 annually--do not by any means pay the maintenance costs and the building has a whimsical furnace that alternately freezes and roasts the occupants. Later we found the county library and the vo-ag teacher in the building but quarters are rented elsewhere for colored extension workers. The auditorium seats about 200 and is ample. The agent insisted that the County War Board still met regularly. The center is away from the congested district and Florence does have a bad traffic problem there.

We continued to Marion where J. C. King, county agent, was at the district meeting in Florence but had instructed his secretary, Mrs. Minnie S. Allen to carry on for him. Only Ext and PMA were in the building; the SCS work was still in the Post Office while the FHA supervisor had his headquarters in the rival town of Mullins, 9 miles away--a previous FHA supervisor having been responsible for staying there because he could get a favorable rental. This center was a rather large 2-story building occupied largely by other county nonagricultural units. Like many of the buildings it was poorly marked outside. It was another WPA project and had no basement, but there were fluorescent lights throughout. The auditorium seated about 200. The FHA supervisor was said to work closely with Ext.

We proceeded to Dillon where county agent C. P. Goodyear was at the district meeting but had his secretary, Irma F. Bost, well prepared for us. She gave us a typed sheet answering all questions previously transmitted to the agent. This was a WPA project and a cement building with somewhat inadequate heating and an auditorium seating 250 to 300. It was rather well kept by the county and had had a new roof recently; it also had tile flooring and acoustical tile ceilings.

Senator J. M. Manning and the county delegation had had a considerable part in its sponsorship. The building accommodated besides Ext, PMA with G. W. Stuart as county administrative officer; J. V. Crownover a work-unit conservationist and his unit; and FHA supervisor E. P. Ashby and his people. Also housed were the State Commission of Forestry, the County Tuberculosis Association, the Department of Public Welfare, the County health people, the Red Cross, the employment service, the Army and Army Air Force Recruiting Services, and the Dillon County Service Office. The agencies had previously been scattered all over town where the former county agent, S. W. Epps, and some wide-awake farmers realized the need for a building and made proposals to the county delegation. A building committee was appointed to take action and a WPA project was sponsored. There is no indebtedness and there are no agricultural agencies outside the building. There are future plans for better lighting, an inside paint job, and weatherproofing to be done by the county. PMA owns and operates its own mimeograph and Ext has another, but agencies cooperate when necessary. The center enables all cooperating agencies to become understanding next-door neighbors; is convenient for farmers in contacting agencies; offers a permanent office easy to find and cheaper to operate than rentals; and it is much more comfortable and convenient than rentals and has its own auditorium. County Agent Goodyear did a superb job for us and had others, especially when absent, left such full replies to the questions sent in advance we should have collected more information much easier.

December 16 we visited the center in Darlington. O. O. Dukes was county agent and he not only had the story down pat but was determined that we visit and talk with every person in the building whether agricultural or otherwise. I soon got enough of that, having once encountered trouble by calling on agencies other than USDA, so I withdrew when it came to the ladies in the welfare group; in any case

Norberg was younger and more handsome and could do a better job there. This was a very attractive 2-story building as to setting, landscaping, and interior. The windows were washed enough for us to see through. There was evergreens, shrubs, and nice sod outside as well as a good crushed-rock driveway. The building therefore lacked the appearance of several others which seemed to have been erected by WPA and gone untouched thereafter. This was about the prettiest building we had seen as to the outside setting. E. D. Gilchrist was county administrative officer for PWA; Warden J. McKenzie, out on official business, was county FHA supervisor. The SCS was in Hartsville, 14 miles away, along with the PCA, though the FLB was in Darlington, Paul Booth in charge. The Red Cross had been in the building but had moved out; the veteran's service officer, the forest ranger, the State unemployment and welfare people were renting. The auditorium held about 100 but really big meetings could be held at the courthouse. This was a WPA project occupied in 1942; it was not crowded--in fact there were a couple of offices yet vacant out of which Red Cross had moved. The county agent was the building's custodian but the courthouse decided who should be housed there and who paid rent and how much. PMA, FHA, and FLB seem to pay rent here, the idea being to collect sufficient for maintenance, but this is not quite done. The building probably cost \$50,000 or \$60,000 and the county now has title. The auditorium had been protected from the start as a meeting place and no one is allowed to take it over for office use. The Kiwanis Club was largely instrumental in setting in shrubs and evergreens. The agent insisted that we meet every individual in occupancy which was a waste of their time and ours as well. Meanwhile the county agent at large took me to see the Darlington live oak, said to be the largest in the State, 100 feet tall, 7 feet in diameter, with a spread of 150 feet, and of a species indigeneous to this locality and not seen except within 100 square miles.

We proceeded to Camden in Kershaw County, our last stop, where W. C. McCarle county agent, was out, but he had left his very capable home demonstration agent, Margaret B. Fewell, in charge and loaded with all the information we required. This also was a WPA project; it was very attractive outside and in and well maintained. Located here were J. D. Crawford, PMA county administrative officer; John C. Stover for PCA, who was out; V. T. Mullen of SCS, which Miss Fewell explained was a separate USDA agency like Ext was; and FHA supervisor J. E. Stuckey. Also in the building were the district forester, the school lunch room supervisor, the county forester, and the representative of the State employment office. Here Ext Director Watkins had called in Ext people on the initiation of a WPA project for a building and suggested how matched funds might be used to sponsor it. The plan was suggested to the county legislative delegation and the commissioners who reminded Ext there were other agricultural agencies than Ext and suggested they be gotten into the picture. Ext's customary oversight in this small matter was thereupon corrected and plans were drawn for a true agricultural center. It has proved most satisfactory to all and has fostered a fine working relationship. However, no auditorium was included in the plans and one is much needed for meetings have to be held in schools or in an unheated market building. The county agent is custodian of the building which is well maintained. The PCA pays rent. The county also pays rent for the colored Ext workers elsewhere in Camden and likewise provides a small auditorium for their use. Storage space is lacking, Miss Fewell felt because women were insufficiently listened to in planning. The FHA county supervisor spoke of his idea that all such officers badly need a small emergency revolving fund to aid their clients; many supervisors actually put up such funds out of their own pocket to make small loans say to enable a client to get a veterinarian and save a valuable sick horse; these advances are later repaid and they contribute much to enable FHA clients to meet repayments. We were next invited to meet with a regular meeting of

the USDA County Council--they are not still fighting the war here as in Florence. The council has a rotating chairmanship and acts effectively to bring all agencies together, State and Federal. As they wanted a talk from the visitors Norberg, who knew the story of the centers from the Federal side best, gave them a 10-minute discussion of the proposed Federal legislation etc. to which they listened attentively. Complaints were made here that the welfare moved in, people lived so long now, and so many needed help, that it continuously expanded and threatened the space of everyone else, hence something must be done to prevent it from crowding others out. Here as elsewhere the PMA man looked pretty well beaten down after his battle with farmers dissatisfied about cotton allotments and the voting on quotas.

This trip was planned by J. M. Eleazer of the State Extension office who did an excellent job of getting us to so many places in so brief a trip. He was known everywhere and highly praised both as a person and as just about the best agricultural writer in existence. We owed a great deal to his foresight and general helpfulness.



