

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY  
EXTENSION  
WORK

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

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Local Home Agent

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1958

Dinwiddie

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**County**

72

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VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Mrs. Elnora S. Perry, Local Home Agent

Dinwiddie County, Virginia

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## ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

### I. Highlights of 1958 Program

The H. D. Club Program for 1958 was based upon problems, interest and desires brought out by leaders, club members and agents, in terms of better rural living, better home making and improved people.

The home makers have been informed of the recommended practices of the Virginia Agricultural Extension Service through home visits, group meetings, news letters, discussions, tours, exhibits, method and result demonstrations, circular letters, bulletins, and community meetings, which contribute to improved people and homemaking activities.

The 4-H and adult programs were planned by the people; who in turn helped to carry the program to their respective communities.

Four Home Demonstration club leaders attended "Judging School for Leaders" sponsored by the Extension Service, with specialist from Blacksburg and home agents serving as instructors.

4-H and adult leaders were encouraged to share information gained at these meeting with non-club members, thereby, improving themselves and others.

We believe that leaders have made a definite contribution to improved people, better rural and homemaking activities through attendance at leader training meetings and giving and/or assisting in giving the information

gained to the homemakers in their respective communities.

## II. County Situation

Dirwiddle which is five hundred and seven square miles, (507) is located in Southside Virginia; and has as its chief source of income general farming. Products produce are: tobacco, corn, peanuts, and a small amount of cotton and market gardens.

The population of Dirwiddle County is one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-five (1,825) families, of the number eight hundred and seventy (870) are farm families and nine hundred and fifty-five (955) are families living in the county but do not make their living by farming. Mckerney is the only incorporated town in the county and West Petersburg is densely populative rural non-farm area in the county.

There is one Button Factory and several saw mills in the county. Three railroads and two main highways pass through our county and we have bus service on each of these highways.

There are twenty-four Elementary and one high school in the county. Hot lunches are served at the high school and one elementary school. Several of the schools have the milk program. There are twenty-two churches, and a health center in the county.

There is no recreational center in the county, therefore, the churches, schools, and clubs provide most of the wholesome entertainment for the county people.

With an increase in the number of homemakers working away from home and an increase in the need for saving of time and energy, the long time goal is "Better Housing" with emphasis upon a well planned and convenient kitchen.

### III. County Extension Program - Adult

#### A. Organization

##### 1. County Agricultural Extension Service Board

The County Agricultural Extension Service Board is an organization composed of men, women and youth representatives from each community in the county. This is the oldest Extension organization in the county and serves as an overall planning organization in the county and has as its objective: to improve the farm and home as a unit. This organization holds one general and several special meetings during the year. It plans such activities as Achievement Day, Fund Raising, send delegates to State Advisory Board, Day of Recreation for adults and assist with the 4-H Program.

##### 2. Home Economic Committee

A Home Economic Committee was appointed in the spring of 1957. This committee has eight members; three H. D. Club members and five non-club members. There are

two representatives from each Magisterial District within the county.

The project by the committee was "To Improve The Health Conditions in Dinwiddie County."

The committee started a survey during 1957 which was completed during 1958.

As a result of the survey the committee decided to work on the following:

- a. Emphasize importance of safe water supply in relation to good health.
- b. Emphasize importance of having annual Chest X-Rayed in order to find cases in their early stage, thus decreasing death rates.

3. County Home Demonstration Club Committee

This organization consists of president, secretary, and program development leader from each club in the county, and serves as an overall planning organization for the home demonstration program in the county. This organization has officers like any other organization who serve for a period of two years (exception of treasurer). This organization met three times in 1958 and planned such activities as observation of National Home Demonstration Week, Program Calendar for 1958, checked the progress of the program, send delegated to District H. D. Committee meeting, purchased year books for the club members and assisted with the 4-H Club work.

(a). County Program Planning Meeting

Our Annual H. D. Program Planning meeting was held one Friday, June 13, 1958 at Mt. Level School, with representatives from six of the clubs in attendance.

The purpose of this meeting was to plan the 1959 H. D. Club Program based upon problems, interest and needs of people in terms of improved standards of living.

The County Situation was given by the farm and home agents; Miss Heidi E. Ford, Assistant District Agent, was present and presented some very important facts on program planning. They were: Why should people plan? What and who should be considered when we plan? We should plan so that we will be able to recognize problems and find solutions to same; plan so that we will have something to follow, to know where we are going and what the results should be. We should consider the whole family when we plan family income, and needs and interests of each member of the family.

Our 1959 H. D. Club Program will include the following subject - Matter Fields: "Food and Nutrition," "Clothing" and "Home Improvement."

B. Project Work

1. Food and Nutrition"

The Food and Nutrition Phase of the Program included "Well Balanced Low Cost Meals," "Packed Lunches that Satisfy" and "Food Preservation Workshop," which were taken during the months of February, March and June respectively.

a. "Well Balanced Low Cost Meals"

Objectives were: to encourage the homemakers to plan meals using the seven basic chart, to encourage the homemakers to use low cost cuts of meat in different ways, to encourage the homemaker to use more meat substitutes; to encourage the homemakers to use more and greater variety of vegetables in the diet; to encourage the homemaker to use powdered milk if fresh milk is not available, and to encourage the homemaker to plan ~~meals~~ for a week and shop when specials are featured.

Methods used were: Leader training meetings, method demonstrations, discussions, leaflets, group meetings, home visits, circular letters and recipes.

As a result of this project the following accomplishments were reported: Sixteen (16) leaders from eight (8) H. D. clubs attended leader training meeting and gave

sixteen (16) demonstrations before their respective clubs. Sixty-two homemakers prepared one or more of the meals for their respective families, twenty (20) homemakers planned meals for a week in advance and fifteen (15) homemakers shared information with non-club members.

b. Packed Lunches That Satisfy

Objectives were: To encourage the homemakers to prepare sandwich spreads sufficient for a week based upon family likes and dislikes; to encourage the homemaker to use a variety of breads in lunches; to encourage the homemaker to provide a sandwich making bar if possible so that each member could prepare his or her own lunch; to encourage the homemaker to use more fruits and vegetables in lunch boxes and to encourage the homemaker to use more hot foods such as soup, milk drinks, etc. in lunch boxes.

Methods used were: leaders, leader training meetings, method demonstrations, group meetings, recipes, discussions and home visits.

As a result of this project, the following accomplishments were reported: ten leaders gave eight demonstrations before their respective club; seven (7) homemakers prepared different spreads for three to five days at one time; ten (10) homemakers included raw vegetables in lunch box for

first time; and five (5) homemakers had other members prepare his or her own lunches.

c. Food Preservation Workshop

Objectives were: to encourage the making and use of a canning and/or freezing budget; to teach the latest methods use in canning and/or freezing; to encourage the canning and/or freezing of more and greater variety of fruits and vegetables.

Methods used were: leaders, leader training meeting, bulletins, homevisits, discussions and method and result demonstrations.

As a result of this workshop - which had eleven (11) leaders and two agents in attendance, these eleven homemakers showed twenty (20) other homemakers in their respective communities how to can and/or freeze according to recommended practices. Thirty-nine (39) homemakers canned one thousand three hundred and twenty quarts of fruits (1,320), thirty-seven (37) homemakers canned three thousand and sixty five quarts of vegetables (3,065), three homemakers canned eighty-two (82) quarts of meat. Ten homemakers froze one hundred and sixty (160) pounds of fruits; thirteen (13) homemakers froze one thousand and twenty-nine (1029) pounds of vegetables and eleven (11) homemakers froze seven hundred and ninety-nine (799) pounds of meats.

## 2. Clothing

This phase of work will include "Dress For Different Occasion" was taken during the month of January.

### a. Clothing for Different Occasion

Objectives were: to encourage the homemakers to decide the use of the garment before its purchase, to encourage the homemaker to choose accessories, and garments that can be used for more than one occasion, and to encourage homemakers to consider her personality, figure, fashion trends, when selecting garments, etc.

Methods used were: leaders, discussion, charts, check sheets, question and answer period, models for various occasions, method and result demonstration.

As a result of this project, ten (10) homemakers considered what they had on hand when purchasing accessories and other clothing articles, five (5) improved their appearance by using correct accessories for the occasion that they represented, (example-gloves and hat for church always). We believe that more improvements could have been made if the homemaker would be aware that its better to be underdressed than overdressed. Too many of them are overdressed.

## 3. Home Management

This phase of work included "The Wise Use of Time" and was taken during the month of April.

a. Wise Use of Time

Objectives were: to encourage one person per club to keep record of use of her time for one week; to encourage the selection of one project that would benefit the homemaker; to encourage the homemaker to plan their time more carefully in order to get necessary jobs done.

Methods used were: Check sheets, discussions, group meetings, leaders, method and result demonstrations, and bulletins.

As a result of this project; nine (9) homemakers kept their homemaking activity records for a period of one week as asked, these homemakers represented nine (9) of the ten clubs in the county. The topic for the month of April was "Washing Dishes." Each club had a demonstration on washing dishes and twenty-five (25) changed method of washing their dishes to save time. Fifteen (15) other homemakers kept their homemaking activities following this monthly meeting.

Since each person has the same amount of time in each day to his or her homemaking or farm duties, this should be an interested topic for study, but was not as successful as we had hoped it would have been. We just do not like to keep records.

4. House Furnishings

This phase of work included "Care of Furniture," "Accessories for Different Rooms," and "Kitchen Window Treatment" was taken during the months of June, July and September.

a. Care of Furniture

Objectives were: To encourage the care of furniture according to recommended practices, to encourage the use of waxes, for furniture, to encourage the reading of labels that come with each type of furniture so that it will become familiar over a period of time.

Methods used were: leaders, group meetings, method demonstrations, discussions, bulletins, charts, samples of various waxes, and home visits.

As a result of this project the following accomplishments were reported: twelve (12) homemakers changed from furniture oil to furniture wax, ten(10) read labels on wax containers to learn uses of the particular kind of wax, twenty-five (25) learned that wax is more beneficial than oil and seven (7) changed to a different kind of wax.

b. Accessories for Different Rooms

Objectives were: to encourage the homemakers to choose accessories to accent the room, to encourage the homemaker to take into account what the accessories will

be used for; to encourage the homemaker to purchase articles that are useful but do not require a great deal of care.

Methods used were: leaders, method demonstrations, bulletins, check sheets or quiz, group meetings, home visits and illustrative materials.

The results of this project were not favorable as we had hoped. The most important point stressed were to keep accessories simple, use and few in numbers. The majority of the people selected accessories for beauty instead of usefulness and its hard to change their attitudes along this line. We had a quiz in which club members were asked to select the most useful chair, ash tray, lamp, coffee table and cups. The results were that three-fourth of them would not consider use, simplicity, but beauty only.

c. Kitchen Window Treatment

Objectives were: to teach the various types of treatments for various types of windows, to encourage the use of simple and inexpensive curtains at kitchen windows, encourage the homemakers to consider durability and use and care in selecting kitchen curtains, and to encourage the making of some of these various curtains using various styles and fabrics.

Methods used were: leaders, samples of various types of curtains and materials, method and result demonstrations, group meetings, bulletins, discussion, home visits and exhibits.

As a result of the project the following accomplishments were reported: seventeen (17) homemakers made twenty-five (25) pairs of kitchen curtains, which included cafe, panel and ruffled. Materials used were feed bags, unbleached muslin, cotton print and broadcloth. Three homemakers purchased venetian blinds and other homemakers are in process of making curtains for Christmas.

d. Refinishing furniture

Objectives were: To teach the proper method of removing old paint, varnish from furniture; to teach the uses of various materials that can be used for finishes, to teach the various finishes that can be applied to old furniture, and to teach proper care of furniture.

Methods used were: leaders, method and result demonstrations, bulletins, home visits, discussions, leader training meetings and circular letters.

As a result of this phase of work the following accomplishments were reported: five (5) persons taught four (4) others how to refinish furniture and ten (10) pieces of furniture has been refinished.

5. Rural Arts

That phase of work included Textile painting.

Objectives were: to teach the selection of the right paints for various materials, to teach the proper preparation and care of articles before and after painting, and to teach creativeness in making various articles.

Methods used were: leaders, specialist, discussions, home visits, method and result demonstration, bulletins and circular letters.

The results were: The workshop was conducted by Miss Catherine Peery, Rural Arts, Specialist, VPI, with an attendance of seventeen (17) which included two (2) non-club members. Twenty-five (25) articles were completed at the clinic which included scarves, pillow cases, tea towels and place mats. One club president taught three members how to textile paint and they painted seven (7) articles.

6. Landscaping

This phase included "Location of Driveways and Walks" and "Shrubbery" and were taken during the months of October and November.

a. Location of Driveways and Sidewalks

Objectives were: To encourage homemaker to locate driveways on one side of house with access to back door;

to encourage the location of walks directly to door in which the homemaker desire company to come and to encourage planning of walkways to all farm Buildings, clothes lines, yard shade, garden, etc.

Methods used were: bulletins, charts, discussion, leaders, home visits, result demonstration and group meetings.

b. Location of Shrubbery

Objectives were: to encourage the planning of home-grounds before planting any shrubbery; to encourage the use of nature shrubbery, and to teach the different types of shrubs and the proper location of each.

Methods used were: charts, discussions, group meetings, leaders, bulletins and home visits.

The results of our landscaping project is incomplete as we have just completed instructions on this phase of work. We hope that by next year we will have some tangible results to report.

7. Housing

This phase included "How and Where to Build Storage" and was a special interest topic.

a. How and Where to Build Storage

Objectives were: to teach the importance of storage space, to teach the kinds of storage space and to teach the proper location of storage.

Methods used were: leaders, specialist, discussion, home visits, bulletins and group meetings.

As a result of the workshop which was conducted by Miss Mary B. Settle, House Improvement Specialist, VPI, were as follows: six (6) homemakers improved or built storage closet in bed room, one (1) homemaker built shelves in pantry and one (1) homemaker built powder room.

C. Community Improvement Club

We have one Community Improvement Club in the county, with an enrollment of forty-eight (48) families, and is located in Darvills community. The community has eight (8) adults and four (4) youth leaders who help plan the activities or work to be done in the community with needs, interests and desires of people in the county in mind.

This club meet each month where reports of accomplishments are made and a discussion or demonstration on community problems are carried out by leaders of the community or agents. Topics for 1958 included "Homeground Beautification," "Family Food Budget," "Storage Space in the Home," "Storage of Fruits and Vegetables," "Farm and Home Safety" and "Good Home Lighting."

Some community accomplishments for 1958 included - one new home built with complete water system and central heat, three families improved lawns by disking and seeding

lawn, five families canned enough food for family use and the community church is being repaired now.

D. Other Activities

1. National H. D. Club Week

Our twelfth Annual H. D. Club Week Program was held on Wednesday night April 30, 1958 at 8 P.M. at Southside High School - Dinwiddie, Virginia with an attendance of approximately two hundred (200) H. D. 4-H club members and well wishers.

Highlights of the program were: music by the Tots Choir of Mt. Level Church, Spelling Bee by club members and an address by Miss Mary W. Newgent, Associate Professor Food and Nutrition, Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia.

Her Topic - "Improved Health Through Improved Diets." Points stressed were: importance of planning well balanced meals with foods produced on farm, good buy-markship in foods, preparing foods in different ways to reduce monotonous and using less fried and more boiled, braised, and stewed foods.

This program was beneficial to all in attendance.

2. Farm and Home Safety Tour

Accidents don't just happen; but one caused either by carelessness, thoughtlessness or failure to remove danger

spots as they arise. The adults along with some h-H club members went on a Safety Tour on Friday July 18, 1958. The purpose of the tour was to observe unsafe hazards on the farm and around the home.

Each person in attendance on the tour had an opportunity to score each home on the following points:

- a. Is there a clear view entrance to and from the highway and driveway free from holes?
- b. Are all tools kept in a safe place?
- c. Are all porch floors and steps sound and in good shape?
- d. Do all stairs have railings?
- e. Is the platform and casing around wells and/or pumps sound?
- f. Are clothes lines located in safe place?
- g. Is the home grounds free from nails, broken glass and rubbish?
- h. Did you notice any other unsafe hazards around the farm or home?

We visited seven homes on this tour which proved to be both educational and inspirational to all in attendance.

### 3. Achievement Day

Our Annual Achievement Day Program was held on Friday night, October 24, 1958 at Southside High School.

Highlights of the adults part on the program were reports of delegates to District H. D. Committee meeting and Dress for the Occasion. Representatives from Little Bethel

and Wyatt had correct and incorrect dresses to represent church and sport wear.

The adults also had an educational exhibit of articles made at club meetings and foods produced on the farm.

h. Judging Done by Leaders

Four (4) leaders attended a Judging School for Leaders, which was held at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia on May 29, 1958. Instructions on Judging - "Foods," "Clothing," "Rural Arts," and General Exhibits were had, one leader attended each session.

One of the leaders along with a retired teacher in our county assisted with judging of exhibits at our recent Achievement Day Program.

IV. Farm and Home Development

A. <u>Problems encountered most often:</u>	<u>No. Families</u>
1. Increasing family income	3
2. Better use of time and facilities	3
3. Improved or Better Housing	3
4. Putting into operation more improved farm and home practices	3
B. Subject - Matter Fields and Assistance given -	

	Short Time Goals	Long Time Goals	Outlook Information	Buying Information	Improved Methods and Practices	Demonstrations	Specialist Assistance
Foods and Nutrition	2		3	3	3		
Vegetable Gardening	3			3	2		
Clothing	3		3	3			
Housing		3					
Home Management							
House Furnishings							
Yard Improvement	1						
H-H Club	3						

C. Progress Stories

The Farm and Home Development Program began in Dinwiddie County approximately three years ago. At that time several farm families were contacted and these three (3) families agreed to serve as farm and home development families. These families are; Mr. & Mrs. James Bradley and one daughter; Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Jiggetts and five sons and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Ragsdale and five daughters.

According to records the health status of the families are good, the average educational level of the families is seventh grade and these families participate in such community affairs as church, P.T.A. etc.

The main cash crop on all of these farms is tobacco, with other crops such as corn, wheat, soybeans, being