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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

FILED

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1961

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County

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The greatest contribution to family living has been the addition of Home Economics projects to the h-H Program. In many cases, change can be brought about faster and easier through the young people. The girls are most anxious for help in room improvement, cooking, sewing, breads, and good grooming. Some of the information given the girls will end up with Mother, who in turn, will pass some along to friends, and other members of the family.

I COUNTY SITUATION

Gloucester County is part of the Tidewater Area of Virginia. It is located in the coastal Plain of Central Eastern Virginia and lies at the Southeastern tip of Virginia's Middle Peninsula. The County is almost surrounded with water, with the York and Piankatank Rivers, Mobjack Bay and Dragon Run.

The area of the county is 223 square miles, or 140,200 acres. The surface elevations within the County range from sea level to 125 feet. Approximately 68% of the County's land is commercial woodland. The remainder of the land is divided up into 455 farms. The number of farms is decreasing because the cost of mechanization is forcing the small farmer out of operation.

The 1960 Census shows Gloucester County has a population of 11,919. This is approximately two-thirds white and one-third non-white. The population trend is on the increase due to retired people who are settling on the water fronts. The young people are beginning to remain in the County and work outside since the building of the York and Rappahannock River bridges.

Gloucester County is a rural area and doesn't have any incorporated towns. Gloucester has a large number of commercial businesses, but still a large percentage of the shopping is done outside of the County. Agriculture is the main source of income, with the sea food industry a second revenue producer.

There is county-wide electric and telephone service available. The County has three Elementary Schools and a High School for the white and a consolidated school for the non-white. There is also one private elementary school. The recreation of the County is centered around the water. There is a skating rink and bowling alley which is patronized by the younger set. During the school term there are school activities which provide recreation for the young people.

There has been an agricultural extension program in Gloucester County for sometime but nothing has been done on the Home Economics side except what has been accomplished through the 4-H Clubs and Community Improvement Clubs. It will therefore take some time to get the present program to the point of being well rounded in all phases of family living.

II COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM - ADULT

A. Organization

1. County Agricultural Extension Service Board

The County Agricultural Extension Service Board is the County organization that sponsors the Extension work in the County. Up to this point, there hasn't been any Home Demonstration work done in the County, so the County women have been represented on the Board only through other groups.

2. Home Economics Council.

The Home Economics Council was organized in October with 15 members. The group decided upon seven phases of work to put emphasis on. There will be a sub-committee for each of these and a Council member will serve on each committee. These committees are in the process of being organized and will start functioning the beginning of the new year. Mrs. B. E. Borden, Sr., was elected as Chairman of the Council and will represent the group on the County Agricultural Extension Board.

3. Home Demonstration Club Committee.

Home Demonstration Clubs are in the process of being organized but there isn't a Home Demonstration Club Committee yet.

B. Subject Matter and Special Emphasis Areas.

Most of the work that has been done so far has been on an individual basis. Help has been given on upholstering, draperies, stain removal, kitchen plans, color schemes, and handiwork (for Bible School). From this it looks as if the major need of the County is help in house furnishings.

The Vepco Home Economist and the Agent did two radio programs on electromation and this has led to the requests for help on kitchen plans. The Vepco Home Economist usually gets these requests because she works with the equipment and the people are not used to having a Home Agent.

One group has asked for help on clothing construction and from talking with individuals, the Agent has found that a large number of women will want this type of assistance. One group asked for help in making hats and this is planned for the first of 1962.

It is too early to measure results for most of the assistance given has been in connection with long time projects. Comments confirm that individuals have been helped with small problems, such as, stain removal.

C. Other Activities.

1. County Agricultural Fair.

The Agent helped plan for the Fair by assisting the catalog committee, the judging and prizes committee, and in preparing the Fair records. During the Fair, work was done with the Judges, Publicity Chairman, Superintendents, and Fair Officials. It is the purpose of the Fair to get the people from different parts of the County together and to give them a chance to exhibit results of what they are doing. This is a young Fair so everyone is working very hard to get more participation by the County people.

III COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM - YOUTH

A. Organization

The County Council is the governing body of the 4-H Clubs. It is made up of the officers of each of the nine clubs. This group meets three times a year and plans for all County-wide activities. They have a set of Officers and receive additional training in leadership.

B. 4-H Project Work

Only a few girls carried Home Economics Projects for the year 1960-1961 because there was doubt of getting a Home Agent. Project meetings were held for these girls during the summer. They felt these meetings were very helpful and they have asked for more of this type of help. Some results of this work were seen at the County Fair.

1. Meal Preparation

Five meetings were held at the Vepco kitchen. The girls were given instruction in food preparation, giving demonstrations, keeping records, and table manners. The Agent was assisted by the Power Company Home Economist, who held one of the meetings alone while the Agent was out of the County.

2. So You'd Like To Sew

Four project meetings were held for the beginning sewing girls. They were given assistance in completing four articles. This was a small group and the girls were able to learn the uses of the sewing machine, and some special stitches, etc.

3. Electric

Two electric project meetings were held in the County. The club members made lamps (pin-up and table), and extension cords with the help of the Power Company Home Economist and Rural Engineer, and the Extension Agents.

4. Home Grounds Beautification, Health, Room Improvement

These projects were worked on at the monthly meetings before the Agent came to the County. She has given what help she could individually.

C. Other Activities

1. District Camp

Gloucester had 52 club members and 4 Junior Leaders attend the District Camp. The Big Chief and the Big Scribe were from Gloucester. The 1962 Big Chief is from Gloucester, also. The whole Camp was a young one, and very active.

2. Rural Life Sunday

Two Rural Life Sunday observances were held in the County, one in the lower part of the County and one in the upper part. This is done because of the transportation problem. This activity gives the Club members added experiences that will help them get over their stage fright, and adds to their leadership abilities.

3. Achievement Day

Approximately 150 Club members, parents and leaders attended the Annual Achievement Program. Several favorable comments have been received since the Program. At this time 46 Charter Club members were tapped for the Gloucester Honor Club, which should add a lot to the over-all Club Program.

4. County Agricultural Fair

The Club members as a whole don't take part in the Fair as they should. Part of the problem is transportation and non-interest on the part of the parents. Adding the Home Economic Projects to the program should help the situation some.

5. County Contest

The Agent attempted to have a County Contest for the few girls who were taking meal preparation. The judges and some guests were the only ones there. Due to the fact that they were not sure how the Contests work, since this was the first one, they didn't want to take part.

IV SCOPE OF WORK - No chart

Since arriving in the County, the Agent has taken every possible chance to inform the public about the Home Demonstration work. She has spoken to the three Community Improvement Clubs, two of the Women's Clubs, and did a radio program on club organization. One prospective Club group has started meeting, and work has been started in three other areas. In working with individuals on Home Economic problems, the Agent tells the women of the other help that Extension has to offer.

V. LEADERSHIP

A. Growth of Leadership

1. Over-all program leaders

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
a. County Agricultural Extension Service Board	—	—	<u>69</u>
b. Youth Council	—	—	—
c. Home Economics Council	—	—	<u>15</u>

2. Home Demonstration Club Leadership - none

3. 4-H Club Leadership - none

B. Leadership Activities of Deborah Williams

Deborah has been in 4-H three years. She has served as Vice-President, 1959, and President, 1960 and 1961, of her Club as well as Song Leader, 1960-61, of the County Council. This experience, as well as her other activities in school and her Church, are all helping her to develop into a very good leader. She goes to 4-H Camp and always does a good job. Deborah is an active sport and is a very well-rounded person. You can always depend upon her to do her part.

VI FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

A. Home Economics Achievement

The major accomplishment was the actual beginning of the Home Economics program. Gloucester has never had a Home Agent before, and therefore hasn't had a Home Economics Program.

B. Developing Public Relations

Since arriving in the County, the Agent has tried to learn to know as many people as possible. She has attended different Churches, attended Civic Club meetings whenever possible, visited the local merchants, visited as many 4-H Club girls and individuals as possible. An effort has been made to get to know all the elected representatives, and other professional workers.

C. Professional Improvement

The Agent has taken every opportunity to add to her storehouse of knowledge by attending training meetings, District meetings, subscribing to magazines, etc. She is constantly in search of something new that can be useful in the County Program.

VII THE LOOK AHEAD

In this seven months, the Agent has concentrated on becoming as familiar, with the County and its people, as possible. From now on, emphasis will be put on organizing special interest groups, Home Demonstration Clubs, 4-H Project groups, etc. Leadership development will be begun in each of these. An effort will be made to know more people, and to work with as many as possible.