

REPORT FILES
OFFICE COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION WORK

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NEGRO
HOME DEM AGENT ANNUAL REPORT

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Narrative Report of Home Demonstration Work
Pittsylvania County Virginia
November 15, 1935 - December 1, 1935

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Miss E. Alice Hobday

Approved:
H. G. Jenkins
District Agent
Dec 16, 1935

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This brief summary points out some of the efforts of the Home Agent in setting the Extension Service Program started in Pittsylvania County. Work was begun in this county November 15, 1935. Since that time the agent has made 38 visits to individuals in eight communities in the effort to get acquainted with some of the people and problems. The cooperation of influential persons of both races has been promised.

Pittsylvania, with an area of 1,015 square miles, has approximately twenty thousand Negroes.

Pittsylvania is primarily an agricultural county, ranking first in tobacco.

One of the problems confronting the county is the high percentage of tenancy. Of the 20,000 Negroes 90% are tenant farmers.

The agent has made visits to the following communities: Chatham, Gretna, Dry Fork, Blairs, Spring Garden, White Oak Mount, Wayside and Java to study the interests and needs of the people so as to gain the cooperation and understanding of leaders, necessary for the success of Extension Service. In homes that the agent visited where there were children of club age, the children were asked to come in order to enable adults and young people to see the need of a "Live-at-Home Program", so that both will be attacking the problem from the positive side when the organizations are started.

The agent has been present at seven group meetings with a total attendance of 152. In the Ministers' Conference, which the agent attended on November 18, there were 30 pastors present, all of whom pledged their support in helping to put the Extension Program over.

Conferences have been held with the following leaders of the county: the Rev. Edmond J. Lee, Dr. Walcott, Health Director, Superintendent F. B. Watson, Mr. A. H. Moses, County Auditor, Miss Elvyn Click, Home Agent, white, the Rev. Anthony Coles, Mr. Smith Dickerson, and the high school principals, Mr. R. J. Jones, and Mr. W. M. Thorpe. In the conference with the Rev. Mr. Lee, he said, "Now What Is It That I Can Do To Help Put The Program Over?" Dr. Walcott stated that one of the greatest needs of the county is nutrition.

The agent has the following equipment: steel file, outlines and helps on clothing, foods nutrition, Home Improvement projects, stationery and supplies.

The agent is making plans to group the small communities into one club. By this grouping more people will be reached through club work. Because of the large number of boys and girls, plans are being made to organize Junior and Senior 4-H Clubs.

The Extension Service has a definite responsibility to bring to the 30,000 Negroes of Pittsylvania County a program which will meet their needs as well as challenge them to a better philosophy of living. Such a program, which will cover a 10 year period is being planned by the agent.