

*No index
NCP*

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

Russell County

Virginia

HOME DEM AGENT ANNUAL REPORT

1942

Miss Reba Grim

July 1, 1942 - November 30, 1942

REPORT FILES
EXTENSION WORK

Table of Contents

I.	Cover and Title Page		
II.	Table of Contents		
III.	Introduction	—————	1
IV.	Scope of Work		
	Home Demonstration Work	—————	1
	4-H Club Work	—————	3
V.	Organization		
	Home Demonstration Committee	———	3
	Agricultural Board	—————	3
	Professional Workers	—————	4
VI.	Leadership	—————	4
VII.	Results		
	Home Demonstration Clubs		
	Projects	—————	5
	Activities	—————	7
VIII.	Other Work Done by Home		
	Demonstration Agent		
	County Home Economics Workers	———	8
	Rationing Board	———	8
	School Lunch	———	8
	Red Cross	———	8
	O. D. T.	———	9
IX.	Appraisal	———	9

III. Introduction

Russell County is an agricultural county located in the Clinch Mountains. It is noted for its blue grass which grows to the tops of the hills. The chief agricultural products are cattle and sheep. The majority of the farmers participate in the A.A.A. program.

There is about 290,000 acres of farming land in the county. About 52,000 acres are in T.V.A. demonstration areas. In addition to this, there is a T.V.A. unit demonstration farm in almost every community.

Near the Dickenson County line at Dante there is a large coal mining operation. There are four towns in the county—Lebanon, Honaker, Cleveland, and Dante. They are all small and all exist to serve the farmers except Dante. There are no factories in the county.

The war has made no great change in the county, except labor shortage due to the large number of men called to the Army and some who have gone to defense plants. Bristol and Kingsport are less than fifty miles away and some farm tenants and others drive there to work in defense plants.

The Home Demonstration Program was started in Russell County on July 1, 1942. The appropriation for the work was secured only after a great deal of hard work on the part of those interested.

IV. Scope of Work

Home Demonstration Work.

While a few of the women in Russell County had worked in Home Demonstration Clubs in other counties, to most of them it was just something that they had read about. Their first need was to learn more about the work and then decide whether or not they wanted to become a part of it. An effort was made to meet the women in every community. This was done in different ways. Usually the community

chairwoman of the Agricultural Board was contacted. She made plans with the Agent for contacting the women of the community. This was done by personal calls with her, by attending Church meetings or by having a demonstration and inviting the women of the community. This has resulted in the organization of seven Home Demonstration Clubs with one hundred thirty-four members.

Name of Club	Enrollment	When Organized
Mew	22	August 20
Castlewood	20	August 21
Elk Garden	22	September 10
Dickensonville	20	September 16
Honaker	20	October 27
Cleveland	16	November 13
Dante	14	November 18

Work has been carried on in other communities. Some of these will organize Home Demonstration clubs, others will not. These communities are Corner, Finney, Belfast, Grassy Creek, Clinchfield, and Moccasin.

Request for work has come from one other community and work will be started there as soon as possible.

Mrs. T. A. Gilmer, who is correspondent for the Roanoke Times and The Bristol Herald Courier as well as the two local papers, has been most helpful in creating interest in Home Demonstration work. The Home Agent has given her facts about the program and she has been able to secure newspaper

space each week. Many people in discussing different parts of the program have said they knew about it because they saw it in the paper.

4-H Club Work

There were two 4-H Clubs in the county on July 1st. No new ones have been organized. Work has been started and some families have shown interest. A talk on 4-H Club work has been made to one young people's group.

V. Organization

Home Demonstration Committee

The County Home Demonstration Committee was organized on November 17th. Members of the committee are local club presidents, women who worked to bring Home Demonstration work to the county and workers in the official farm agencies. Mrs. T. A. Gilmer, Lebanon, was elected Chairman; Mrs. Tom Smith, Elk Garden, Vice-Chairman; and Mrs. D. S. Buck, Castlewood, Secretary and Treasurer. This committee planned the work for 1943. They did a fine job of planning. There was a great deal of interest. It was interesting to notice that they felt that the county needed so much more than could be done in one year. Stress was placed on those things that the war has forced upon us, such as drying fruits and vegetables, home laundry, conservation, and storage. They chose as the Federation goal of the county, Conservation. Increased and better storage was chosen for the county *campaign*.

The Agricultural Board

The Agricultural Board was set up and functioning when the Home Agent came to the county. There are ten communities with a man and woman chairman in each community. There are about eighty-seven neighborhoods with a man and woman co-chairman in each. These chairmen were helpful in getting Home Demonstration

work started in their communities. They have carried out the programs assigned them. They have not held a meeting since the Agent has been in the county.

Professional Workers Council

Since July 1st, the Professional Workers' Council has held two meetings. One was a reorganization meeting since so many changes had been made in the personnel of the different agencies in the county.

The second meeting was to work on the Share the Meat Campaign. Members of the Council are Superintendents of Schools, Rural School Supervisors, Farm Security Home Management Supervisors and R. R. Supervisors, Public Health Nurse, Chief Clerk and Chairman of A.A.A., Vocational Agricultural Teachers, Home Economics Teachers, Superintendent of Public Welfare and Farm Loan Association, Farm Agents and Home Agent.

The Home Demonstration Agent attended these meetings and is assigned a community in which she is to help instruct the leaders.

VI. Leadership

Each local club has two project leaders. With seven clubs, there are fourteen project leaders. One training meeting for these has been held. While they have helped, they haven't given demonstrations.

Each local club also has a president, vice president, and a secretary and treasurer. The Home Demonstration Agent has been to see each club president and has helped her plan her club's program and order of business. The manner in which most of the clubs carry on their meetings is very business like. They show a great deal of community interest.

Community chairmen were invited to a canning and drying demonstration for training.

Four T.V.A. unit farm and home demonstrators have been selected. These have been visited by the Assistant T.V.A. County Agent and the Home Agent. They have started to keep records and are planning home improvements to be made.

VII. Results

Home Demonstration Clubs

Projects

Because the work was new no attempt at county planning of program was made. It was felt by leaders that the best program would be one in line with the State Emergency Program. The program was as follows:

July - Canning and Drying - Fall Gardens

August - Canning and Drying - Cheese Making

September - School Lunch, Storage, Uses of Feed Bags, Nutrition

October - Restyling

November - Meat Canning

Foods

While most of the work in July was on Canning and Drying, Mr. L. C. Beamer talked to a group of 25 at Grassy Creek on Fall Gardens. At all July meetings information was given on fall gardens.

During July and August, fourteen demonstrations were given on canning and drying in as many communities. There were about 220 families reached in this way. Farm Security Home Supervisor cooperated in having their clients attend these demonstrations.

During August, Mr. C. L. Flesman, Dairy Manufacturing Specialist, came to the county and gave four demonstrations on making American cheese. The attendance varied from fifteen to fifty persons. Since then, the Home Agent has given three demonstrations on making cheese. One vocational agriculture teacher gave this demonstration to the Agriculture Home Economics

students in one high school. Individual help has been given too. More interest has been shown in learning to make American cheese than any other part of the program. Some people in the county were already making cheese. It was not uniformly good and was not accepted by the markets too favorably. Neither could it be made in the winter. At least 350 people have seen Cheese Making demonstrations. Several women are making cheese and selling it at a good price. Many others are making cheese for home use.

Six demonstrations were given on nutrition during August and September. There were about eighty families represented at these meetings. Nutrition was discussed in all food demonstrations to some extent.

A demonstration was given on school lunches in one community.

Clothing

In the latter part of September, Miss Iva Byrd Johnson, Clothing Specialist, conducted a restyling clinic in Lebanon. Professional workers, project leaders of organized clubs and representatives of communities where there were no clubs were invited. Twenty-four people attended. Ten restyling clinics were held in as many communities. Representatives of 150 families attended.

In the Corner section, the people were interested, but felt they had no clothes worth restyling. In cooperation with the Rural School Supervisor and the representative of the Save-the-Children Federation, a plan was worked out. The local teacher recommended the families that needed clothes, the Save-the-Children Federation gave used woolen garments and the

women in the community make over enough clothes to keep seven children in school. Because of the wide use of A. A. A. and T. V. A. fertilizer in the county, there was a large number of these bags stored in the homes and in addition to these, there were printed feed bags. Five demonstrations were given on the use of these bags. Eighty-seven people were present at these meetings.

Storage

While not a great deal of work was done on storage, Mr. A. G. Smith, Jr., Asst. Garden Specialist, worked in the county one day. Work was done in two sections of the county. At Elk Garden, he spoke to a group of 25. At Honaker a home to which a few neighbors had been invited was visited. Instructions were given on storage of sweet potatoes, cabbage, celery and canned fruit. Some work on storage was done along with canning and drying demonstrations.

Home Demonstration Activities

Two unusual Home Demonstration Clubs may be reported. They are all too new to report an outstanding one. In the Elk Garden Community there are three large farms with many tenants. There are also many smaller farms. The owners of the large farms insist on the tenants being Home Demonstration Club members. The wives of the owners are members and provide transportation for the tenants to the meetings. The women from the small farms attend too. Everyone is encouraged to take an active part. This same thing is true of the church in the community.

At Dante, a coal mining town, a home demonstration club with a modified program has been organized.

VIII. Other Work Done by Home Demonstration Agent

County Home Economics Workers

The Home Economics Teachers have been invited to attend two leader training meetings. They have also attended some of the Home Demonstration meetings in their communities. Home Economics cottages have been used for meetings. They have been most cooperative.

The Home Demonstration Agent cooperated with the Virginia Home Economics Association in securing the registration of all Home Economics trained people in the county.

Rationing Board

Soon after the Agent came to the county she was appointed Consumer-Relation Specialist for the local ration board. A great deal of material has come from the state O. P. A. office. This has been passed on to the groups in the county.

School Lunch

Cooperation was given the school garden and canning project by making available to them any information they requested. Recipes for low cost meals have been made available also.

A talk was made to the Honaker P. T. A. on school lunches.

Red Cross

The Red Cross has a strong organization with a paid worker. The Agent has been asked to help secure knitters and deliver wool. Some of this has been done.

O. D. T.

Parts of three days were given to help farm truck owners register for Certificates of War Necessity.

IX. Appraisal

It is hard to evaluate a program that has only been working for about five months.

Home Demonstration Clubs have given the women of communities where there was no organization, an educational and social outlet that they needed.

It has kept the women informed about their part in the war effort and has made them feel that they were a vital part of that effort.

To some it has meant an increase in income. Some are selling cheese, who have not been able to before.

The program has stimulated interest in feeding the family better. They are learning to feed their families the right foods prepared in the way to be most nutritious.

The program has just started and the women in the county are learning what Home Demonstration is. They want to take part in it. Perhaps this is the greatest achievement.

If Home Demonstration work has made a successful start in Russell County, one of the big factors is the cooperation of all members of the Extension staff in the county.