

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK  
ESSEX COUNTY  
VIRGINIA

1944

MISS ALICE V. ANKERS  
COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT  
JANUARY 1, 1944 - NOVEMBER 30, 1944

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111. SCOPE OF WORK

A. Home Demonstration Clubs

Numbers: 11                      Memberships: 215

Other groups sponsored by home demonstration clubs.

Negros: 1                      Memberships: 13

B. 4-H Clubs

Numbers: 12                      Memberships: 130

C. Number families reached through neighborhood and community leaders: 435

F. Estimate total number families reached: 900

No. farm families in County: 1250

CHIEFTAIN BOND

IV. ORGANIZATION

A. County Home Demonstration Committee:

The County Home Demonstration Committee is composed of the president of each of the Home Demonstration Clubs, the wives of the County Board of Supervisors and other key women. There are twenty-seven members of the Committee, eight of these having been added this year because of their interest in and influence on Home Demonstration Activities.

The Committee met in the fall of 1943 to plan the 1944 program. Due to war-time conditions, much stress was given the various phases of conservation in the program calendar. Conservation was selected as the Federation Goal. The year's program was set up as follows:

- December - Nutrition in Wartime
- January - Better Home Managements  
Outlook Material  
Financial Planning  
Homemaker's Calendar
- February - Planning the Family Food Supply  
Small Fruits and Perennials  
Preparing the garden soil
- March - Simplifying Household Tasks
- April - Freshen Up the Home
- May - Conservation of Foods
- June - Planning Late gardens  
Culling Poultry Flocks - Canning Chicken
- July - Club's choice

- August - Club's choice
- September - Plan for better storage
- October - Care and repair of furniture
- November - House repair and upkeep

The committee met again in May to check on progress and make further plans.

#### B. COUNTY AGRICULTURAL BOARD:

The County Agricultural Board set-up remains the same as in former years. There is a Chairman, Co-Chairman, (man and woman) and the County Agent as Secretary. The Executive Committee is composed of the County Chairman and Co-Chairman and the Chairman and Co-Chairman of each community. The Advisory Members are representatives of the Soil Conservation Service, Farm Security Administration, Welfare Department, the Emergency Crop Loan Division of the Farm Credit Administration, and the County Agent.

There are three Communities in the County, with three men and three women as Chairman and Co-Chairman, twenty-nine neighborhoods with thirty-nine white men and twenty-nine white women neighborhood leaders. There are thirty-seven negro men and thirty negro women neighborhood leaders under the direction of the negro farm agent.

No meeting of the County Agricultural Board has been attempted this year. However, the women on the Board have been contacted by the Home Agent, both personally and through letters at various times throughout the year and have served as a valuable medium both for getting information out into the County and back to the Home Agent's Office from the County.

They have been particularly active in distributing information on the Food Fights For Freedom Program and in helping the Home Agent locate 4-H Club girls' homes and set up neighborhood 4-H groups.

Because the neighborhood leaders are recognized as key people, many of them have been asked to serve on the Consumer Service and Price Panels of O. P. A.

#### D. PROFESSIONAL WORKERS' CONFERENCE:

The Agencies represented in the Professional Workers' Conference are the Extension Service, Farm Security Administration, Emergency Crop Loan Division of the Farm Credit Administration, Soil Conservation Service, the Vocational Teachers, and the Welfare Department.

There has been no meeting of the entire Professional Workers' Conference held this year. However, the Women Professional Workers have met regularly each month as a means of gaining mutual help in their various programs. The Home Demonstration Agent has sent reminders to the Professional workers before these meetings and the group has used her office as the meeting place. The Home Agent has taken part in the activities of the group.

The Home Agent has notified the Women Professional Workers of all Home Demonstration Committee meetings, leader training meetings, workshops, and other special meetings held in the County during the year. Many of these have been attended by several of the Women Professional Workers.

V. LEADERSHIP:

A. Adult Works

1. Club Officers:

Each Club has its own officers, making eighteen organisational officers in the six organized clubs. The presidents conduct the meetings and the vice-presidents preside in the absence of the presidents. The secretaries keep the roll and minutes.

Each month letters were sent to the club presidents from the agent's office, listing and explaining any items of business to be taken up at the monthly meeting. The two Home Demonstration Committee meetings held during the year were training meetings for the organisational leaders. There was a total attendance of eighteen at these meetings. These organisational leaders devoted approximately eighty days to Home Demonstration Work during the Year.

2. Project Leaders:

There were eleven project leaders, two in each of five clubs and one in the other organized club. One county wide leader training meeting was attempted March 22, with Miss Ruth Jamison, House Furnishings Specialist, training in "Freshen Up The Home", with one leader present. Following this, leaders were trained individually by the agent.

In addition to the regular project leaders, most clubs had poultry, garden and War Information Chairmen, making a total of sixteen of these. Poultry and garden leader training meetings were conducted by the specialists in January in Warsaw and in May in Tappahannock. No Essex County leaders attended the Warsaw meeting but the agent did attend and later trained the leaders individually. Two poultry and one garden leader attended the May meeting. The War Information Chairmen were sent a letter each month from the home agent's office giving timely hints. They supplemented these with information from radio and newspapers for their reports to their clubs. War Information Chairmen have also served as War Bond Salespeople in their communities.

The regular project leaders, poultry, and garden leaders conducted seven meetings without the agent during the year. Poultry, garden and War Information leaders gave short reports at most monthly club meetings. Several garden and poultry leaders had demonstration gardens and poultry flocks. It is estimated that the regular project leaders, poultry, garden, and War Information Chairmen devoted forty days to their jobs as leaders during 1944.

3. Federation Goal Chairmen:

There were six Federation Goal Chairmen, one in each organized club. Many of the Demonstrations during the year were on the Federation Goal, Conservation. The County Federation Goal Chairman sent some special information on "Soil Conservation" to the local chairman, which they presented to their clubs.

4. Community and Neighborhood Leaders:

The Community and Neighborhood leaders consist of the County Co-Chairman, three Community Chairmen, and twenty-nine Neighborhood leaders, eleven of whom are not Home Demonstration Club members. The Community and Neighborhood leaders launched the Food Fights For Freedom Program at the beginning of the year. Since then they have been contacted from time to time with further timely information on food production and conservation.

B. 4-H CLUB WORK

1. Adult 4-H Leaders:

a. Organizations:

Although there are no true organization leaders in Essex County's 4-H set-up, the community and neighborhood leaders have guided the agent in setting up neighborhood 4-H project groups. In addition to these, 4-H clubs met in the two elementary schools in the county.

b. Projects:

Eight of the eleven neighborhood 4-H project groups had adult project leaders who assisted with all meetings, conducting some alone. These leaders also helped the girls between meetings. The groups were small, due to the distances involved. Many of the girls who lived too far away to attend meetings had adults as individual project helpers. Project leaders were trained individually by the agent. Most of the neighborhood 4-H groups have found it impossible to continue meeting during the winter months because they get out of school so late.

2. Junior 4-H Leaders:

a. Club Officers:

The officers of the two in-school 4-H clubs conduct their meetings. Five of the neighborhood 4-H groups were also organized and their officers also conducted their meetings.

## VI. RESULTS

### A. Home Demonstration Clubs

#### 1. Project Work

##### a. Food

###### (1) Productions:

The February and June meetings were devoted to food production. In February, planning the Family Food Supply, Small Fruits and Perennial Vegetables, and Preparing the Garden Soil were the topics studied. In June, Planning Late Gardens was stressed. In addition, poultry and garden leaders gave reports each month on their particular phases of food production.

of the twenty-five people sending replies to a questionnaire sent by the agent, ten reported changes in production of vegetables, eleven fruits, seven meats, seven milk, and eight poultry and eggs. Five reported producing home food supply according to an annual food supply budget. Seven reported having set 1976 small fruit plants this year.

###### (2) Conservations:

The May meetings were devoted to Food Conservation. These consisted of a study of Food Preservation Methods and Equipment

rather than the more usual canning demonstrations since the county was thoroughly covered with canning demonstrations last year. A canning demonstration was given to one group of negro women and girls. One chicken canning demonstration was also given.

Two American Cheese demonstrations were given, and two yeast bread demonstrations, of these in combination with a pastry demonstration.

Adults canned approximately 30,400 quarts of fruit, 21,000 quarts of vegetables and 3,800 quarts of meats and fish this year, making a total of approximately 55,200 quarts canned. This makes an average of 256 quarts per Home Demonstration Club Member.

Club members brined approximately 2180 gallons of food, dried 1200 pounds (dried weight), cured 24,450 pounds, stored 26,400 pounds, and the two members who have Frozen Food Lockers in the plant in Fredericksburg, froze 1,400 pounds of food. Five pounds of cheese were made. Many women report more food preserved, especially more canning, than ever before.

Much stress was given food preservation by freezer locker systems in the meetings, as there is agitation to build one in Tappahannock. Eight Home Demonstration women and the agent went with a group to Charlottesville and Crozet to see the plants there.

(3) Nutrition:

"Nutrition in Wartime" was the subject of the January demonstration. Nutrition was, again, especially stressed during nutrition month, September. The agent particularly emphasized nutrition on home visits, also.

b. Clothing

(1) Consumer Problems:

(a) Buying (b) Care (c) War Production regulations (d) Substitute Fabrics.

These were all touched on briefly in the reports of the War Information Chairmen to the clubs.

(2) Conservations:

(a) Woolen garments

Storage

Mimeographed sheets on storage of woolen garments were given the women at the May meetings.

## (3) Constructions:

## (a) New garments:

No work was done at club meetings on clothing construction but a small amount of individual help was given. Eight women report a total of 107 garments made and 47 remodeled.

## c. House

## (1) House Repairs:

The November demonstrations were on "House Care and Repair." Here is a letter to the agent from one of the Home Demonstration women about the improvements she has made on her home this year: "I am writing to tell you we have dug a basement under my kitchen and have put in an electric pump. Have hot and cold water in the basement; also in my kitchen. Have a sink in the kitchen and cabinets; also an extra window. Have had a bath put in. I thought this would show we are doing something. I canned 300 quarts and 95 pints of fruit and vegetables. I also helped two people can."

(2) Home Safety:

One group had a demonstration on "Safety in the Home" during October. Eight of the twenty-five questionnaires from Home Demonstration women reported removing fire and accident hazards from the farm home.

d. House Furnishings

(1) Conservation

(b) Furniture and Furnishings

Repair and Care:

The April demonstration on "Freshen Up the Home" featured care and repair of home furnishings. The October demonstration was on "Care and Repair of Furniture." Three pieces of Furniture were repaired in connection with the refinishing demonstration and eleven pieces were reported cleaned according to methods recommended at that time.

(c) Furniture Clinics

Chair seatings:

No work was done in regular meetings on this but the agent did help two families individually with chair seating.

**Refinishings:**

Refinishing demonstrations were held at most clubs during October. Twenty pieces of furniture were re-finished.

**Upholstery and Tying Springs:**

One club had a re-upholstery and spring tying demonstration. Nine pieces were re-upholstered in the county this year.

**(2) Construction****(b) Slip Covers:**

Two people were helped individually with slip covers. Four slip covers were made as a result of this.

**(c) Curtains, draperies and shades:**

One person was helped individually with construction of curtains.

**(d) Storage spaces (other than kitchen)**

The "Storage" demonstration in September included all types of storage. Of the twenty-five questionnaires returned to the agent, seven reported improved storage for canned foods, four root crops, six clothing, and five books and magazines.

## (e) Others:

Making lampshades was one of the things suggested in the April demonstration on "Freshen Up the Home." One club later had a meeting on "Making Lampshades" and made seven at the meeting.

## e. Home Management:

## (2) Kitchen Arrangements:

## "Simplifying Household Tasks,"

at the March meetings, stressed improved kitchen arrangement. Fifteen out of twenty-five people report having arranged their kitchens more conveniently and nine report having raised working surfaces to a convenient height.

## (3) Storage (kitchen and laundry):

Kitchen and laundry storage were emphasized at the September Storage demonstrations; also mentioned at the March demonstration on "Simplifying Household Tasks." Nine women out of twenty-five report improvement in kitchen storage and three report improvement in storage of laundry equipment.

(6) Time and energy management:

"Simplifying Household Tasks",

the March demonstration, included time and energy management. Twelve of the twenty-five questionnaires from Home Demonstration women report better planning of their work as a result of this demonstration.

(8) Home Laundry:

The agent presented a resume of a Home Laundry Workshop which Miss Helen Alverson, Home Management Specialist, gave for agents last spring, to each of the clubs. Ten people report improvement of home laundry practices as a result of this.

f. Consumer Problems:

(1) Foods (2) Clothing (3) House furnishings and equipment (4) General Household supplies.

All of these were touched on in "Outlook Material" during January and by the reports of the War Information Chairman at various times during the year. Twelve people were assisted by these with the buying of food, fifteen clothing, twenty-seven housefurnishings

and equipment and eight general household supplies.

2. Home Demonstration Club Activities:

a. Federation Goals:

The Federation goal was conservation. There was a county chairman and each club had a conservation chairman. Many of the demonstrations for the year were on conservation. In addition to these, the county conservation chairman sent some special information on Soil Conservation to the club chairman, which they presented to their clubs.

c. Other special activities:

(1) Unorganized groups:

Five new groups have been met this year and each is meeting monthly, although none have organized into clubs.

(2) Delegates to State Federation:

Essex had two delegates at the State Federation meeting at Blacksburg in June. The vice-president of the State Federation is an Essex County woman. The chairman of the County Home Demonstration Committee was the other delegate.

part in Red Cross, Church work and other activities.

4. How One Home Demonstration Club Member Had Adjusted to War Conditions:

Essex County has an excellent example of how one woman has adjusted to war conditions. This particular woman gets up at five o'clock each morning to give her husband a hot breakfast and fix his lunch before he goes to a war job. She has a servant two days a week, and then the servant will not do heavy work. Except for these two days she does all her own cooking and housekeeping and does her own laundry. She planted and cared for her garden last summer and canned over 1000 quarts of food. She supervised the farm and helps with the farm work. She also takes care of her two semi-invalid parents.

Until March 15, she was chief clerk of the local Rationing Board but resigned because of her home responsibilities. She is vice-president of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, publicity chairman for the Red Cross, works with the State War Finance Committee and is the District Chairman, is County Chairman of the Woman's Democratic Committee, secretary and publicity chairman of the Woman's club, and a District chairman of the consumer Service Panel of B. P. A.

She writes stories and magazine articles and is a reporter for the Richmond News Leader and the local county paper. She is also active in church work.

B. Agricultural Boards:

The big program put over by the Agricultural Board was "Food Fights For Freedom" program. In launching this the home agent and community leaders, visited the neighborhood leaders, explaining the program, asking their cooperation, and taking them material to distribute. Throughout the year, the community and neighborhood leaders were contacted by the agent both on home visits and through correspondence on various timely topics. The community and neighborhood leaders were a great help to the agent in setting up 4-H project groups and finding good project leaders.

C. 4-H Clubs:

1. Project Works:

All project instruction was given either in small neighborhood groups by project leaders and agent or individually by project helpers and agent.

a. Bread:

Forty-eight girls were enrolled in the bread project and twelve completed their project. These made bread a total of 695 times. Eleven of them gave bread-making demonstrations and all exhibited bread. The most outstanding bread club member made loaf bread fifteen times, biscuits fifty-five times, muffins thirty times, corn-

bread twenty times and other bread ten times.

b. Clothings:

Only two of the twenty-four girls enrolled in the clothing project completed it. Nine new garments were made at a total cost of \$4.50, fourteen darned or mended, one dry cleaned and twelve laundered.

e. Poultry:

Six of the thirty poultry project members completed. Profits were \$65.70.

f. Gardening:

Twenty-seven members were enrolled in the gardening project with seven completing, the estimated profit from their gardens being \$198.59.

i. Housekeeping:

Two of the four members taking the housekeeping project completed that project.

j. Stop Food Wastes:

Two of the nine members taking Stop-Food Waste completed their project.

k. Canning:

Five of the ten members enrolled completed the canning project, canning 194 quarts alone and helping with 330 quarts.

l. Milk, butter and cheese:

Four members were enrolled in this project with two completing. Each of these made both cottage and

American cheese several times. Both girls learned to like cottage cheese while taking the milk, butter, cheese project.

## 2. Health:

Health has been stressed with the 4-H children mainly through their nutrition work. The agent has worked with both girls and boys on a study of, "The Basic Seven Foods."

## 4. Work of One Club:

The most outstanding club is a neighborhood project group of four girls. They meet at their various homes once a month. Each girl shows her project to the group as they meet with her and project instruction is given by the leader or agent. The group is so small that the girls can frequently "learn to do by doing" at the meeting. All of them completed their projects. The same girls are among the leaders of their in-school 4-H club.

## E. Other Work Done by Home Demonstration Agents:

### Activities and Results in Cooperations:

#### 1. County home economics teacher-

The home economics teacher and home agent have worked together by exchanging ideas in the meetings of the women professional workers and in activities undertaken by the group.

## 2. County Nutrition Committee:

The home agent helped the chairman of the nutrition committee put the following window displays in the various store windows in the town of Tappahannock: Conserve Fats, Garden Seed Needed for a Year Around Garden and other Garden suggestions, Cheese Exhibit, Quantity and Variety of Canned Foods Needed by One Person for One Year, Canning Equipment Needed in the Home. The first week each of these were in the windows, both the nutrition chairman and the home agent ran articles in the county paper on the subject of the display, calling attention to the display at the end of the articles.

The chairman of the nutrition committee and the home agent made, cooperatively, Essex County's plans for September as "Nutrition Month" and the home agent assisted in carrying out these plans. The following is a report of the results:

- a. The Mayor of Tappahannock was visited and asked that he issue a proclamation designating September as "nutrition month," which he did.
- b. Letters were written to the executive committee of the Woman's Club and the Ruritan Club, asking them to urge all members to give their wholehearted cooperation in making September an all-out nutrition month.

- c. Basic Seven Food Guide folders will be distributed by the newsboys in Tappahannock, the 4-H club members in the rural sections and through the colored churches.
- d. Each 4-H club member has been asked to adopt a "little sister" or "little brother" who is not a club member to instruct them in eating a balanced diet.
- e. The Girl Scouts were asked to make and distribute nutrition bookmarks on which are listed the basic seven.
- f. Two window displays were put up by the Chairman of the Nutrition Committee and the Home Demonstration Agent. One large window in one of the local dime stores was used for a display of balanced meals for three successive days. Since this exhibit was to stay up a week, the meals were illustrated by colored pictures on trays. Fresh flowers in small vases were kept in the window the entire week. The other exhibit, in a drug store window was on the Basic Seven Foods, using canned and dried foods where-ever possible.
- g. Both the Home Management Supervisor and the Home Demonstration Agent are giving more stress than usual to nutrition in all meetings during September. The County Nutrition chairman and the Home Agent broadcast during October on the Home Demonstration Hour over W M B G, Richmond on the work of the nutrition committee during September.

3. Office of Civilian Defense:

The Agent distributed material for O. C. D.

5. Rationing Boards:

The agent served as a member of the County Consumer Service Panel and was also chairman for one of the Districts. She distributed information and materials on rationing and price control and helped people with rationing problems, particularly with filling in canning sugar application blanks.

6. War Bond Committee:

The agent has stressed Bond Sales at club meetings, put enclosures in letters regarding Bond buying and is responsible for the money and stamps for the Bond Booth, which is open in front of the theatre two nights a week. She is personally responsible for the Booth one night each month.

8. Others:

(a) Farm Security Agents:

The Farm Security and home agents have worked together rather closely through and exchange of information and materials.

(b) Publicity:

The agent has had an article in the local paper each week. Examples are given at the end of the report. The agent has also written three radio talks, two of which she delivered in person.

(c) Home Visits:

The agent has made 536 home visits, 250 of these to homes visited for the first time this year.

(d) Proposed Freezer Locker Plants:

The agent has stressed freezing as a method of food preservation at meetings and in individual contacts. She has also attended six freezer locker meetings in various parts of the county, assisting in five of them. The agent also accompanied a group of women to Charlottesville and Crozet to see the locker plants there.

VII. The Most Significant Contribution to the County in Meeting War Needs made by the Home Demonstration Program this Year:

The most significant contribution to the county in meeting war needs made by the home demonstration program this year was in the field of food production and conservation. Home demonstration women produced and conserved more food than ever before. They have canned approximately 55,200 quarts of food and brined, dried, cured, and stored food, also. They have set 1976 small fruit plants. They have also done extra house work, much farm work and much work in conservation of clothing, house furnishings and equipment.



By ALICE V. ANKERS, County Home Demonstration Agent

**Meetings Scheduled:**

Friday, May 12, Lloyds in school 4-H, 1:15 to 2:15 P. M., 3:30 P. M., Women Professional Workers meeting, Home Agents office.

Monday, May 15—Battery 4-H neighborhood group, Mrs. Leslie Hayes, after school.

Tuesday, May 16—Howertons-Upright Home Demonstration Club 2:30 P. M.

Wednesday, May 17 — Center Cross 4-H Neighborhood Group, Mrs. Sarah Robins, 4:00 P. M.

Thursday, May 18—Lloyds-Loretta Home Demonstration Clubs, Lloyds School, 1:00 P. M.

The Home Demonstration Clubs this month are featuring "Food Preservation." The following recommendations, adopted at state food conservation meeting, Roanoke, March 17, are being emphasized:

1. — Non-acid vegetables and meats are safely canned only in a pressure cooker, correctly used. Correct use means:

(a) Follow the directions of the manufacturer of your canner for amount of water use.

(b) Leave pet cock open and let steam come out for 10 minutes.

(c) If using two rows of pint jars, be sure the water at bottom is boiling before top of cooker is placed on.

(d) Time is counted only after correct pressure is reached. Be sure to keep pressure up to the

point required.

2.—If a pressure cooker is not available, we recommend for all vegetables except tomatoes:

- (a) Canning at a canning center.
- (b) Using some alternate method of processing, such as dehydration, freezing, brining, storing, curing or drying.

3.—The boiling water bath may be used for tomatoes, rhubarb, and all fruits and fruit juices. Be sure the kettle has some kind of rack and that there are 4 inches of space above the jars when they are on the rack. This allows 2 inches of water and 2 inches for boiling space. Do not count time until water boils.

4.—Do not use oven method for any type of canning.

5.—Do not use open kettle canning for anything but preserves. It is not safe for tomatoes or fruits because of possible contamination before sealing.

6.—Do not use canning acids for any products. Some are injuries and none takes the place of heat penetration.

7.—Pressure gauges should be tested each year.

8.—Stress sanitation; have food absolutely clean before blanching, then use blanching water as liquid in jar. Sterilize all jars by steaming or boiling for ten minutes. Keep hot until time for using.

9.—Read carefully and follow new directions for jar closures.



By ALICE V. ANKERS, County Home Demonstration Agent

**Meeting Scheduled:**

**Friday, September 8**  
 Kino H. D., 2:00 P. M.  
 Kino 4-H, 4:00 P. M.

**Saturday, September 9**  
 Women Professional Workers meeting, home agent's office, 9:00 A. M.

**Monday, September 11**  
 Bull Neck 4-H, after school.

**Tuesday, September 12**  
 Elevation H. D., Mrs. Ruby Loving's, 2:00 P. M.  
 Elevation 4-H, Mrs. Ruby Loving's, 4:00 P. M.

**Wednesday, September 13**  
 Work in Upright Mission School.

**Thursday, September 14**  
 Radio, WMBG, Mrs. Gertrude E. Atkinson, chairman of Essex County Nutrition Committee, and the home agent will talk on "Nutrition."

Everyone is invited to attend all meetings. The Home Demonstration clubs are studying storage this month. The following is a summary of vegetable storage:

**How to store your victory garden products:**

Unless you provide adequate and proper storage, much of the produce from your Victory Garden will go to waste. Some fruits and vegetables must be canned, brined, or dried for safe-keeping; but others, especially the root crops may be stored without processing.

The place of storage should be as near the kitchen as possible.

**Well Stored Canned Foods Keep Better**

Keeping canned foods in a cool place aids in preventing spoilage. Temperature under 60F. is desirable but 32F. and below must be avoided.

Provide enough space. Shelves 10 to 12 inches deep will hold 2 rows of jars.

The clearance between the tops of jars and the next shelf above should be 2 inches; therefore the space between jar shelves should be: 3 inches for pints, 10 inches for quarts and 13 inches for half-gallons.

The amount of shelf space should be based on the canning budget and should be arranged as conveniently as possible.

Before putting canned goods in storage, wipe off the jars with a damp cloth, count them, and keep a record. It is well to date the jars so that the oldest ones will be used first.

Place jars on the shelves so that all apples, all tomatoes, etc., are together and may be easily located. As jars are emptied, re-arrange unused ones to provide space for the empties. Clean empty jars well and keep the right tops with them. With self-seal jars, use the old tops to cover empty jars against dust and dirt. Provide a place to hang up metal rings.

**Basement Storage**

The most ideal type of storage can be provided in the basement of a house or outbuilding. The steps to the basement should not be too narrow or too steep, should be well-lighted, and have a handrail for additional safety.

If the basement is heated, one corner may be partitioned off for the storage space in order the temperature can, if possible, be kept below 50F. Walls between the storage room and the rest of the basement should be tight and well insulated. The room should have an outside window for ventilation. Where no basement space is available, a storage room might be built on the end of the back porch.

**Mound Storage**

Where good basement can not be provided, mounds can be used with satisfactory results. They should be in a well drained location in the garden or elsewhere near the kitchen.

The mound may be of convenient size, but it will be found more satisfactory to have several small mounds rather than one large one. When a mound is once opened, it is best to remove all the contents at once; hence, the advisability of small mounds. It is also well to

store small quantities of all root crops together. It will then be necessary to open only one mound to get a supply of all.

A convenient size will hold 2 or 3 bushels. To make a mound of this size, dig out 6 or 8 inches of soil from an area 3 or 4 feet in diameter. Lay 3 to 4 inches of dry straw or cornstalks in the bottom and pile the vegetables in a cone. Cover the pile with a layer of straw or cornstalks, and over this place a layer of dirt 3 inches deep. As winter approaches, increase the dirt covering until it is about 6 inches deep.

Dig a shallow trench around and away from the mound to give

thorough drainage.

Vegetables that will keep well in mounds are Irish potatoes, beets, turnips, carrots, rutabagas, parsnips, and salsify. Parsnips and salsify may be left in the ground, however, as freezing does not injure them.

Cabbage can be kept very well in any climate by turning the heads upside down and covering with enough dirt to protect them from alternate freezing and thawing. Good drainage is essential.

**To Store Dried Foods**

Dried, evaporated, or dehydrated foods must be kept dry. They should be packaged and stored just as soon as they are completely dry. Small packages, jars, or cans, which are moisture-proof are best.

Food in bags must be protected from rats and insects. Large cans with tight covers give good protection. Packaging foods in family-sized servings allows the use of some dried products without exposing the rest. Hanging dried foods in cloth or paper bags is not advisable.