

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1962

Selford
County

Involvement of Local Leadership In Planning
and Carrying Out The Extension Program

In Bedford County organizational, sponsor, program development, and a few project leaders help greatly in carrying out the county program and are very much involved in its planning. In 4-H and HD Club work, pre-planning meetings are held in the various clubs to get a better understanding of the needs of people in each community. Later, program planning meetings are held (4-H in May and HD in June) with leaders from each club helping to formulate the years' program based on previously expressed needs.

The local school teachers contribute much to the 4-H program by assisting with the organization of 4-H Clubs in the schools and at other times doubling as a project leader. These leaders also conduct many meetings and programs in the absence of the Home Agent.

To encourage continuous 4-H leadership in the county 4-H program, a system is being tried whereby Jr. 4-H leaders are trained to do some of the jobs adult 4-H leaders are accustomed to doing and are

admitted to join the County 4-H Leaders Association. This we hope will help to guide them into adult leadership as they leave the 4-H Club age group.

The County 4-H Leaders Association contributes much to the success of the 4-H program through financial aid and through sponsoring or taking charge of most of the annual activities (sponsoring delegates to the State Conferences, Rural Life Sunday Programs, National 4-H Week County-Wide Programs and Rallies, Christmas Party, and assisting with the Jr. Council training and planning Meetings).

Adult 4-H and HD leaders are assisted by the Home Agent in planning and carrying out County-Wide programs. To become more independent in carrying out county-wide programs and to gain more experience in such, leaders are encouraged to sponsor, plan and carry out various community programs and activities--which they do.

An effective county extension program depends largely upon how well the local leaders are involved in the planning of the program and their assistance in carrying it out. These leaders help to reach more people in the county than ordinarily would be reached. Therefore, this phase of the program is quite important and the job of keeping, securing, and training of leaders is a continuous one in Bedford County.

The leaders now serving are doing a good job, but more leaders are needed to do a better job. There are too few 4-H project leaders to serve the large 4-H enrollment which makes individual assistance to 4-H members most impossible. HD Club leaders are doing a better job than in previous years. There is still a need to encourage more persons to serve in order to spread the leadership out among more members to keep from over-working the faithful few. With efforts concentrated on a strong leader training program there is a great possibility that leaders will feel capable of serving and will serve.

REPORT ON PROJECT AREAS

FOLLOWS:

Bedford County
1962

Extension Home Economics
Home Furnishings

Many homemakers in Bedford County make their curtains and draperies and all plan and arrange their furniture. These homemakers lacked knowledge and skills in window treatment and drapery construction to make windows in the home more attractive, which was also lacking in arranging bedroom furniture to achieve comfort.

Homemakers could do a better job in this area with training provided them on window treatment and furniture arrangement. Therefore, the objective of this phase of the program was to improve skills in window treatment and drapery construction and in the arranging of bedroom furniture.

To accomplish these objectives leader training meetings and discussions were held in drapery making and furniture arrangement. Miss Katherine Habel, Home Furnishings Specialist, conducted a drapery making clinic for leaders on Thursday, July 26th. Information covered measuring, cutting, and putting together one-half lined drapery with methods of pleating demonstrated on a sample drapery.

Leader training meetings on Window Treatment and Bedroom Arrangement was conducted by the Home

Agent using pamphlets and leaflets on Window Treatment and Furniture Arrangement which was provided by the Specialist of VPI Extension Office. Floor plans and cut out furniture were used in the demonstration on Bedroom Arrangement to provide each member an opportunity to arrange and rearrange furniture on the floor plan for practice. The Sears-Roebuck demonstration on Window Treatment was used to supplement information on Window Treatment. Special assistance was given individuals on drapery making, window treatment, and furniture arrangement.

The results achieved through these training meetings included one homemaker, Mrs. Inez Carter of Forest, who made a total of five pairs of unlined draperies with further assistance and now is able to assist others in the Forest community interested in making draperies. Four other persons used part of the drapery making instruction to make kitchen curtains. Even though more draperies were not made, the discussions on measuring, selecting, and hanging of draperies made all of the homemakers aware of well fitted draperies. Many are doing a better job of treating their windows now and have future plans to continue this improvement.

This awareness is also found in the arranging of bedroom furniture. A total of eight so far

reported rearranging their bedroom for comfort. A few were already following the rules for arranging furniture. The biggest problem of homemakers in the county is the lay out or construction of their rooms. They are an average of 9' x 12' with 2 windows and 2 or more doors which make furniture arrangement very difficult. Therefore, this problem shows a need for selection of furniture to fit family needs and the size of the room where it will be used before many can ever achieve a comfortably arranged bedroom.

The public was exposed to room arrangement rights and wrong through an exhibit an display during the achievement program put up by the Coleman Falls HD Club. A total of 175 or more persons viewed it.

Bedford County
1962

Extension Home Economics
Home Management

Many homemakers use most of their time and energy on jobs performed in the kitchen. They lack knowledge of a well arranged kitchen for a more convenient and satisfying place to work. Some homemakers also lack skills in selecting the proper tools for food preparation jobs and in improving kitchen storage space, which would make work easier to perform to save time and energy.

These homemakers could use less time and energy in these jobs with a knowledge of a well arranged kitchen with proper tools for food preparation jobs. This year's objective was to improve skills in planning a well arranged kitchen with good storage space and in selecting the proper food preparation tools.

To provide homemakers knowledge and skills in measuring and planning a convenient kitchen a leader training meeting was conducted by Miss Amelia H. Fuller, Farm and Home Unit Specialist, on The Arrangement of Kitchen Furniture on January 30. Fifteen leaders representing six of the ten HD Clubs participated in this training meeting. The three main working centers in a kitchen--mixing,

cooking, and cleaning--were explained by Miss Fullen. Leaders participated in the demonstration to show how working height differ for individuals and the amount of energy you use in reaching and bending for articles in wall and base cabinets. These trained leaders later gave the demonstration on kitchen arrangement to other club members.

In the beginning many of the kitchens were in need of some type of improvement for better working conditions. They included rearrangement of working areas, adjustments for proper heights, rearrangement of articles stored in cabinets and poor lighting.

As a result of the demonstrations eight families made extensive kitchen improvements and plans, which included 1 new kitchen completed, 2 kitchen completely remodeled with all new wall and base cabinets, 1 installed kitchen sink and arranged new cleaning center, and 4 developed plans on paper to be completed in the near future. Many other families made improvements on arrangements of articles in storage cabinets in the kitchen and stated that plans will be outlined for future improvements. Homemakers attitude toward a convenient kitchen is changing. The knowledge they gained on energy used in reaching and bending for articles while working in the kitchen

made them realize the need for reorganizing their work centers.

The topic "Selection of Proper Tools for Food Preparation Jobs" will be covered in April, 1962. Beginning in January 1963, actual practice will be continued in scoring, measuring and planning kitchen surface heights and lay-outs. Emphasis will also be placed on improving kitchen storage space.

Community and Public Affairs
County Advisory Board, HD Committee
and Community Improvement Club

The County Advisory Board, HD Committee, and Community Improvement Club plays a very important part in aiding with the dissemination of extension outlook material and new and improved farm and home practices. This group also aid some in informing the public on other extension agencies developments as received by the Home Agent which may be of interest to the people.

To enable these leaders to work more effectively with the county extension program, a stronger educational program is needed during regular meetings to inform them of the many rapid changes and developments taking place that may affect the people in the county.

Therefore, the objective that this program has is to increase the effectiveness of the county boards, clubs, and committees through educational programs during regular board, club, and committee meetings.

The County Advisory Board, meeting six times a year; the HD Committee, meeting three times a year; and the Forest Community Club, meeting each month; covered three topics of immediate interest to the

public. These topics included Civil Defense with emphasis on possible radioactive fallout as it would affect Bedford County and food and shelter needs in case of a nuclear attack; Social Security general information; and the importance of an education for youth today, using information obtained from VPI on Virginia Youth Face The Future and What College For Me.

Emphasis was also placed on the duties of these boards and committees and the importance of being informed on the latest experimental findings. News releases on recommended farm and home practices and the latest experimental findings were distributed to members as received from the office of the VPI Extension Service.

The topics covered made leaders more aware of the need for being well informed on current problems and some of the recommended solutions for solving these problems. However, the period of evaluation is too short to completely measure the effectiveness of the program. As this informative program continues, its effectiveness will be evaluated according to how well the leaders freely discuss the extension program; increased interest in the extension program on the part of the leaders in the

county; how well information is shared with others on improved farm and home practices; and the increased awareness of available assistance from other extension agencies on the part of the leaders and public. Also the leaders expressions on the worthwhileness of the program.

Bedford County
1962

Four-H and Other Extension Youth Programs

Four-H Project Leaders Committee

In Bedford County there are seven 4-H clubs with 177 boys and 186 girls participating in 4-H club work. These clubs are organized in schools with teachers serving as organization leaders and, as best they can, project leaders too. There are seventeen project leaders, which the agent works with individually, serving the total enrollment of 363 members. Each year only a few members complete their project work successfully.

The project assistance for 4-H members could be improved through the organization of a project leaders committee. Therefore, the main objective for 1962-63 is to organize a project leaders committee, which would in the future improve the project assistance in the county.

Plans have not been completely carried out in getting this group organized. A few parents and other interested persons have been visited by the Agent to solicit their help in serving as project leaders. This problem has been explained to HD Clubs, boards, and committees to inform them of this great need for project leaders in Bedford County. The Forest Community Club discussed this problem

at length during the November, 1962 regular meeting and became more aware of the need for action.

The present efforts put forth on this problem have made more people aware of the need for 4-H project leaders. The Forest Community Club members have pledged themselves to serve as project leaders for the 4-H boys and girls in the Forest Community. They also have plans to organize a community 4-H Club of older 4-H members to assist them with their project needs. With this community getting underway with plans for serving as project leaders it could well serve as a good example during organization time.

Four-H And Other Extension Youth Programs
Four-H Project Leader Training Program

Seventeen leaders serve as 4-H project leaders in Bedford County and perhaps more would serve in this capacity with a stronger training program initiated.

It is also found that leaders lack knowledge in project requirements and an understanding of needs and interest of 4-H members of various ages. Some lack skills in giving demonstrations.

With this in mind, the objective of this program is to improve project assistance in the county through strengthening the quality of existing project leaders and the training of the new leaders.

This program, which was to get started in November, 1963, will be initiated beginning in January, 1963 to meet the needs of members carrying projects for the year. After the organization of the project committee a more uniformed training program can be worked out to meet project requirements for 1963. In 1962, adult organization leaders received project training during regular 4-H meetings to enable them to give 4-H members assistance between meetings. This did not work too well because all of these leaders were school teachers with regular

school duties to perform first. For 1963, it is hoped that more parents and other interested persons with available time will serve as project leaders to eliminate this problem.

Bedford County
1962

Other Topics Of Interest Covered in 1963

"Rural Arts"

Each year some phase of rural art is added to the Home Demonstration Club program to stimulate interest in club work; to teach a new hobby; to provide recreation; and to add beauty to the home.

On Friday, June 8, Miss Catherine Peery, Rural Arts Specialist trained twelve HD Club Leaders in the art of making cosages, **tying** gift packages, and making articles of native materials.

The days training ended with a display of articles completed by leaders which included: Fresh flower cosages, cosages of dried materials, mounted compositions of dried native materials in paper weights, and an array of beautifully wrapped gift packages from left over gift wrappings and paper bags, using paper dolls and trees, lollipops, and many other inexpensive materials to decorate the tops of wrapped boxes and other containers. Members also began work on door mats made of bleached corn shucks.

Since this training meeting, these leaders trained other club members and used the various

demonstrations during club choice months--August and December. Many are decorating paper weights to give for Christmas gifts. Also, gift wrapping techniques are being used in wrapping their gifts.

The general public gained from these demonstrations too. Cosage making and door Mat Making were exhibited step by step by two HD Clubs during the Annual Achievement Program, where 175 persons viewed the display.

Bedford County
1962

An Outstanding Four-H Adult Leader
Helps Bedford County 4-H Program Progress

As pointed out in the State 4-H Club Leaders Handbook, the responsibilities of 4-H Leaders are to: be enthusiastic, appreciate the importance of a leader's job, be a good example, and recognize accomplishments. Mrs. Edna Hayden of Bedford represents one of Bedford County's most outstanding 4-H leaders and is very conscious of the listed responsibilities.

Mrs. Hayden, a mother of two girls five and six years old, is a former 4-H Club member and junior leader. As a 4-H'er, she represented Bedford County and the State of Virginia at the National 4-H Regional Conference when held at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama. With her experience as a 4-H Club member, she is aware of the need for leaders in the county.

In 1959 she volunteered to join the County Four-H Leaders Association to serve on a County-wide basis with the 4-H program. Since joining the Association, she has been very active in assisting with the many 4-H projects and programs over the years, which includes her assistance with Rural Life Sunday Programs, Rallies for financial aid, Achievement

Programs and Exhibits, and Junior Council Training Meetings. Mrs. Hayden has accompanied the 4-H delegation to the State 4-H Short Course at Virginia State College for the past three years.

In 1961, she was elected Assistant Secretary to the State 4-H Leaders Association. In 1962 she attended the National 4-H Leaders Forum which was held at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D. C., after which she reported on her experiences while there to the State and County Associations. She is now working with the County Association to raise funds to give another county leader the opportunity to attend the National Leader Forum as a means of improving the County's leadership and gaining new ideas for carrying on the 4-H program.

Mrs. Hayden shows great interest in the youth in the County and works well with them. She is very deserving of the recognition--"Outstanding Leader"--and has help the County 4-H program to progress through her assistance in the program and striving for new ideas to improve the program.

Bedford County
1962

County Extension Program, 1962

In 1962, ten home demonstration clubs with and enrollment of 155 members and seven 4-H clubs with an enrollment of 177 boys and 186 girls participated in the extension program. Other extension organizations participating in the extension program included the County Agricultural Advisory Board, HD Committee, 4-H Leaders Association, 4-H Junior Council, and the Forest Community Club.

The over-all program for 1962 was very beneficial to many of the participants in the extension program as well as to the other interested persons throughout the County. A total of 380 4-H projects were carried by 4-H members with approximately 65% of the members completing the work. Many of the adults made progress in improving their homes during the year. The greatest progress was noted in kitchen improvements and installation of running water in the homes.

Volunteered local leaders served well with the 4-H and HD Club program. More adults took an active part in giving demonstrations during club meetings. The Achievement program with the club's educational exhibits on display enabled the public to share the

HD and 4-H project work. Approximately 175 persons attended this program and viewed the displays.

All of the clubs were active in their county, district, and state activities. Four-H'ers won many County awards along with four district awards and one State award. The County 4-H Leaders Association is an active member of the State 4-H Leaders' Association. The HD Clubs of Bedford County and the County Advisory Board participated in their district and state Meetings. Participation in these meetings enabled members to gain new ideas and to keep abreast of the changing times. It also stimulated them into seeing the need for County program improvements.

It is noted that the greatest need is still the recruiting and training of 4-H project leaders and the presentation of more educational features to the County Advisory Boards and Committee during meetings to keep them informed on extension practices and changes.

With increased trained leader services, a larger percentages of 4-H members will have the opportunity to received individual project help--thus developing better boys and girls and raising the percentage of projects completed.

Leadership development will be one of the 1963 goals.