

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

### *Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

Mrs. E. S. Parry

**Name**

Local Home

**Title**

**Agent**

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**

**Assistant Agent**



1959

Blindie

**County**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
County Situation -----	1
County Extension Program - Adult County Agri.Ext. Service Board --	2
County H. D. Club Committee-----	2
County Program Planning Meeting--	3
Subject-Matter and Special Emphasis Area	
Food and Nutrition -----	3
Clothing -----	5
Home Management -----	7
Accomplishments -----	8
Other Activities	
National H. D. Week -----	10
Achievement Day Program -----	10
Farm and Home Development Work ----	11
Progress Story -----	12
County Extension Program - Youth	
County L-H Council -----	13
Project Planning Committee-----	13
L-H Project Work	
Clothing -----	14
Food and Nutrition -----	15
Other Activities	
National L-H Club Week -----	16
Rural Life Sunday -----	16
Achievement Day Program -----	17

	<u>Page</u>
Scope of Work -----	17
What was done to Increase Scope of work, etc. -----	18
Growth of Leadership -----	18
Home Demonstration Club Leadership	19
h-H club Leadership -----	19
Leadership & Accomplishments of an Outstanding Individual -----	20
Significant Achievement of Ext. in h-H club work -----	21
Progress In Developing Good Public Relations In County -----	22
Professional Improvement -----	22
Appraisal of Year's Work-----	22
Suggestions for Improvement-----	23
Contributions to Family Living-Adult	23
Contributions to Family - h-H	23

## ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

### I. County Situation

Dinwiddie which is five hundred and seven square miles, (507) is located in Southside Virginia; and has as its chief source of income general farming. Products produce are: tobacco, corn, peanuts, and a small amount of cotton and market gardens.

The population of Dinwiddie County is one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-five (1,825) families, of the number eight hundred and seventy (870) are farm families and nine hundred and fifty-five (955) are families living in the county but do not make their living by farming. McKenney is the only incorporated town in the county and West Petersburg is densely populative rural non-farm area in the county.

There is one Button Factory and several saw mills in the county. Three railroads and two main highways pass through our county and we have bus service on each of these highways.

There are twenty-four Elementary and one high school in the county. Hot lunches are served at the high school and one elementary school. Several of the schools have the milk program. There are twenty-two churches and a health center in the county.

There is no recreational center in the county, therefore, the churches, schools and clubs provide most of the wholesome entertainment for the county people.

With an increase in the number of homemakers working away from home and an increase in the need for saving of time and energy, the long time goal is "Better Housing" with emphasis upon a well planned and convenient kitchen.

## II. County Extension Program - Adult

### A. Organization

#### 1. County Agricultural Extension Service Board

The County Agricultural Extension Service Board is composed of men, women and youth representatives from each community within the county. This is the oldest extension organization within our county and serves as the overall planning organization in the county. Its objectives are: to improve the farm and home as a unit; to encourage the keeping of farm and home records and to supplement family income through production of livestock, poultry, etc. This organization met three times this year and planned such county-wide activities as Achievement Day Fund Raising and sent delegates to State Advisory Board Meeting.

#### 2. County Home Demonstration Club Committee

This organization consists of president, secretary, program development leader from each club along with several key people within our county. This organization plan all county-wide activities for the Home Demonstration club for the county. This organization met twice during 1959 and planned such activities as observation of National H. D. Club week, program for year, sent delegates to District Home Demonstration

meeting and purchased year books for club members and others.

(a) County Program Planning Meeting

Our Annual H. D. Program Planning meeting was held on Monday, July 6, 1959 at Extension office with presidents, program development leaders and other interested persons in attendance.

Prior to this meeting the home agent worked with president and program development leaders from each local club, where problems on community, county and state level was discussed.

The purpose of meeting and county situation were discussed by the home agent, while the farm agent discussed problems related to agriculture.

Problems brought in by club representatives were placed on blackboard and question and answers related to these problems were discussed.

B. Subject Matter and Special Emphasis Areas

1. Food and Nutrition

The Food and Nutrition phase of work for 1959 included "Planning adequate meals with food produced on farm," "Use of leftovers" and "Nutritious Snacks and Refreshments," which were taken during the months of May thru July, 1959.

a. Problems or needs of people were:

Basic information or patterns for planning adequate meals from foods produced on farms; various uses for leftover foods in terms of appearance and nutrition; and serving of snacks and

refreshments for various occasions that are nutritious.

b. The following was attempted:

- (1) To teach homemakers importance of well balanced meals for health sake.
- (2) To teach the homemakers that leftovers can be served in various attractive ways.
- (3) To teach the homemakers that snacks & refreshments should be planned in terms of nutritive values, and in keeping with other meals eaten.

The people were to learn how to use the information gained at club meetings at home with their respective families and to share information with neighbors and friends.

The changes expected in people's behavior were: that the homemakers would try out small quantities of each recipe at home on family members; that club members would have more faith and confidence in leaders; that each leader try out recipes at home before giving demonstration before club group.

c. Work carried out through following:

Leader training meeting, leaders, groups meetings, charts, bulletins, circular letters, home visits, assistance given by specialist, method demonstrations, visual aids and folders made up for leaders.

d. Results were as follows:

The results brought about as a result of this phase of work were that the homemakers learned that adequate meals could

be planned using what is produced on the farm, time and energy can be saved by planning meals for at least ~~one~~ week in advance. Through wise planning only small quantities will be left over and that left overs can be served in many different ways for family health. That there are many snacks & refreshments can be served at various gathering for family health and the use of more fruits, vegetables, fruit juices etc. for serving our relatives and friends.

We hope that we will have other results from this project in the near future.

2. Clothing

"Clothing Construction for Children" was the phase of work in clothing for 1959, during the months of January through April. Topics covered were selection and use of patterns and materials, cutting out garments, finishes such as collars, hems, etc. and judging completed garments.

a. Problems or needs of people:

Problems as stated by people were basic information on selection of materials and patterns for children clothes; cutting out of garments using pattern and finishes such as collars, hems etc. Since children grow faster between 1 & 12 years, how to make garments that could be let out or down as they grow. Children's clothes are expensive and how to cut down on cost.

The following was attempted: how to select a pattern and suitable materials for the garment; how to cut garment using a pattern, how to construct a garment, various types of finishes and their uses; how to judge completed garment whether bought or made.

People were to learn the following: how to use information gained at club meetings and from other sources at home to improve family living and to share this information with neighbors and friends.

Changes expected in people behavior: For those who had not made a garment before we expected them to have enough confidence in themselves and in their leaders to at least try to make one garment. For those who saw frequently to use new methods and techniques in clothing construction. Compare cost of garments made at home and some garment purchased ready made in terms of time, energy and care.

Work carried through following - leaders, leader training meetings, method and result demonstrations, charts, samples of materials and patterns visual aids, home visits, bulletins, folders made up for leaders, circular letters, judging and fashion show.

Results obtained were - The homemakers learned that children's clothing can be made cheaper than purchased ready made providing that they have equipment necessary for clothing

construction. That tucks at waistline and deep hems can be used in children's clothes which can be let down as they grow. Patterns come in chubby sizes for those children who are in need of them.

We hope that this project will continue to be beneficial for those who are interested in clothing construction for children as well as those interested in learning to sew.

### 3. Home Management

Phases of home management in our 1959 program included selection and use of bulbs, or shading bare bulbs; selection and use of lamps and selection and use of color in the home and were taken during months of September thru November.

Problems or needs of people - Information on use of various types of bulbs in home lighting, correct height of various lamps depending upon their use and selection of colors that will blend within a room or in adjoining rooms or hallways.

The following was attempted - to teach various types bulbs and use of each; to teach use of various types of lamps; to teach proper color selection in the home.

The people were to learn to use information gained at club meetings and from other sources at home to improve the standards of living. To share information with others.

Changes expected in behavior of people - That the home-maker would try out information gained at club meetings, etc.

By replacing present bulbs with bulbs of required wattage in at least one lamp in the home and over a period of time follow same practice with all lights in the home. Members would read information given out at meetings and file for future reference.

Work carried out through leader training meetings, one conducted by home economist, from Virginia Electric and power company, Petersburg, Virginia and one by the home agent; bulletins, leaders, home visits, method and result demonstrations, office calls, folders for leaders, specialist, discussions, group meetings, questions and answer periods, slides, magazine clippings, paint chips and illustrative materials, such as samples of materials for drapes, slip covers, rugs, exhibits and displays.

Results obtained - Since these topics were taken during the months of September thru November we do not have any tangible results to report to date. We will report results as they come in to our office.

We do believe that the homemaker have a better view concerning improving lighting for the home, particularly on the correct wattage for bulbs used in the home.

Accomplishments

We believe that "Clothing Construction for Children" was the greatest accomplishment during the past year.

Some of the problems were various kinds of materials and patterns that are used for children's clothes; cutting of garment to allow for rapid growth and finishes such as hems, zippers, collars, etc.

Each club selected two leaders for this project. The leaders had some knowledge about sewing and were willing to learn latest information on this topic. They were also willing to help other club members with their sewing problems. The home agent conducted meeting in January pertaining to selection of patterns and materials for childrens clothes. Leaders conducted demonstrations on cutting construction and finishes such as collars, zippers, etc. Leaders and agent judge the completed garment.

We used samples of materials and patterns to explain the proper selection of patterns and materials. Other methods used were method and result demonstrations, discussions, question and answers, circulars, bulletins, etc.

At close of project in April seventy-five (75) members had completed one hundred (100) garments. To date at least two hundred (200) garments have been made by one hundred and twenty-five (125) homemakers. Ten (10) persons who had not made garments for children have made twenty (20) garments to date. We believe that at least 25% of these homemakers will continue to sew for their children.

C. Other Activities

1. National H. D. Club Week Celebration

National Home Demonstration Club Week was observed on Wednesday night, May 6th, 1959 at Southside High School with counties of Dinwiddie, Chesterfield and Prince George taking part. This program consisted of Talent number and a Fashion Show. Dinwiddie County H. D. Club members had worked on "Clothing Construction for Children" for the previous four months. Our fashion show consisted of garments made for children by the adults. Garments representing the following occasions were worn: school, sport or casual, church, street and lounging or sleep wear.

This program was an inspiration to the agents as well as club members from various counties.

Ten persons, including farm and home agents attended District H. D. Committee meeting held at James Solomon Russell High School, Lawrenceville, Virginia on Tuesday, May 5, 1959, and this meeting will be held in Dinwiddie County in 1960.

2. Achievement Day Program

Our Annual joint adult and h-H Achievement Day Program was held on Wednesday night, October 21, 1959 at Southside High School with an attendance of approximately one hundred and fifty (150).

The adult portion of the program were centered around

individual club exhibits. Each H. D. Club selected one topic covered during 1959 for their exhibit. Eight of the nine clubs display their products which included "Clothing Construction for Children," "Selection & use of Bulbs In Home," "Selection & Use of Lamps in Home," "Packed Lunches," "Christmas Decoration," "Meals Planned Using Food Produced on Farm," "Food Preservation," and "Snacks and Refreshments." There was no competition between clubs, each club was judged on its appearance, educational values quality of exhibit, originality and arrangements. Judges were Miss H. E. Ford, District Agent, Mrs. A. J. Burton, Home Agent in Prince George, Miss Herring, School Teacher in Chesterfield county and Mr. M. J. Edwards, Farm Agent in Chesterfield.

Highlights of program was an address by Mr. S. E. Marshall, District Agent, who spoke on "Being Prepared or Are You Ready." Emphasis were placed on being prepared for whatever task may come our way and in so doing we will reap the reward. This address was enjoyed by all in attendance at this meeting.

D.

E. Farm and Home Development Work

The farm and home development work is being carried on by three farm families in Dinwiddie county.

<u>Problems most often encountered are:</u>	<u>No. Families</u>
Increase of family income	3
Better use of time and facilities	3

<u>Problems most often encountered con't</u>	<u>No. families</u>
Improved or Better Housing	3
Putting into operation more improved farm and home practices	3
<u>Subject Matter Fields &amp; Assistance Given</u>	
Food & Nutrition	3
Vegetable Gardening	3
Clothing Construction	2
Clothing Selection	3
Housing	3
Yard Improvement	3
h-H club work	3
<u>Progress Story of One Family</u>	

Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Ragsdale's long time goals are a new house on US highway #1 and educating their five daughters.

The cash crops on the farm is tobacco and livestock, he has an off-farm job at Button Factory which is located approximately one mile from his home in the town of McKenney.

According to records the health status of this family is good, the educational level is seventh grade and they take part in such community activities as church, PTA, etc.

The accomplishments of this family on their long time goal is the completion of their new seven room brick house, with full basement. They moved into this home in early spring. Their

short time goals included a new automobile, purchase of furniture for the home, purchase of a home freezer and improving home grounds. To date one of their long time goals have been accomplished and two of their short time goals; new car and furniture for the new house.

They have two children in 4-H club and their daughter Janice participated in Hog Show and Sale at Petersburg Fair in October.

This farm family are looking forward to complete their other short time goals in near future as well as their long time goals in connection with new home, etc.

### III. County Extension Program - Youth

#### A. Organization

##### 1. County 4-H Council

The County 4-H Council is composed of officers and leaders from each local club within the county and held three meetings during the year. The council serves as an overall planning committee for all clubs in the county. It planned such county-wide activities as observation of National 4-H club week, Rural Life Sunday, Day of Recreation and Achievement Day Program.

##### 2. Project Planning Committee

The project planning committee is made up of council officers and leaders from each 4-H club. It held one meeting this year

and planned joint projects for all clubs for 1959-60. These project were "Electricity," "Home Ground Beautification," and "Safety."

B. 4-H Project Work

The following projects were carried out in 1958-59 by 4-H club members. Our joint project was Clothing Unit I. Individual projects were Clothing Units II & III and "Food and Nutrition."

The joint project was selected at our county 4-H program planning meeting while the individual projects selected by club members who were interested in a particular project and who had been in 4-H club work for at least one year.

Clothing

In clothing projects we planned to teach 4-H club members to improve his or her personal appearance, how to select clothing that was becoming, how to select and use a pattern and how to make and judge garments made with or without a pattern.

Methods used were: leaders, leader training meeting, group meetings, method demonstrations, discussions, circular letters, home visits, exhibits and demonstrations.

As a result of this project there were six hundred and forty-five (645) members enrolled in three units of clothing and four hundred and twelve (412) fulfilled the requirements for completion. There were one hundred and forty-three (143)

articles made, ninety-seven (97) garments made, eleven members modeled garments at fashion show, one hundred and twenty-seven (127) members made exhibits either at Achievement Day or at club meeting.

Food and Nutrition

Included bread making, food preservation and meal planning. This project were taken by fifty-seven (57) girls.

We planned to teach latest methods in canning or freezing bread making and planning adequate meals for families, planning of canning or freezing bueget, make variety of breads and prepare variety of dishes.

Methods used were: leaders, leader training meetings, group meetings, method demonstrations, bulletins, home visits, visual aids and discussions.

As a result of the project, there were fifty-four (54) girls taking meal planning and preparation and thirty (30) completed project. These girls prepared one hundred and eighty-three (183) dishes, served forty-two (42) meals. They learned how to make the wester mix and used it in preparing a variety of breads for their family; they learned how to measure accurately both dry and liquid ingredients. They learned how to set table correctly and wise use of time in setting the table, prepared simple meals and refreshments for family and friends.

Three (3) girls enrolled in "Food Preservation," two in freezing and one in canning. These members canned one hundred (100) quarts of fruits and vegetables and four hundred pounds (400) food frozen. These girls learned how to pack tomatoes whole for canning and proper containers and labels for freezing.

C. Other Activities

National 4-H Club Week Observation

The 4-H clubs of Dinwiddie County observed National 4-H club week by presenting Miss Doris A. Smith, IFYE delegate to Brazil at Southside High School, Dinwiddie, Va. Miss Smith through use of slides, discussion of her visit to Brazil, etc. This program was both educational and enjoyable to those in attendance.

Sixteen (16) 4-H club members received medals and certificates for outstanding work done in 1958.

Rural Life Sunday

Rural Life Sunday was observed by 4-H club members in the county on Sunday, April 26, 1959 at Southside High School. The speaker for the occasion was Rev. E. J. Nickens, Assistant Dean at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va. During his address he emphasized the important part that 4-H club work play in lives of individuals through the development of "Head," "Heart," "Hand," and "Health."

Clover 4-H club had charge of Candle lighting ceremony, which was enjoyed by all.

Achievement Day Program

Annual h-H and adult Achievement program was held on Wednesday night October 21, 1959 at Southside High School, Dinwiddie, Virginia.

Highlights of program as presented by h-H club members were: reports from delegates to State h-H Short Course, Conservation conference and Regional Camp. Eleven (11) members modeled garments made in Clothing projects; five senior members and six junior members.

Several h-H clubs had exhibits and were awarded ribbons.

IV. Scope of Work

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. H. D. Clubs	12	11	10	10	10
Membership	115	172	150	150	150
No. H.D. Groups (unorganized)	0	0	0	0	0
Membership	0	0	0	0	0
No. h-H clubs	10	11	12	12	12
Membership	196	114	214	230	258
No. YW Clubs	0	0	0	0	0
Membership	0	0	0	0	0
No. Community clubs	1	1	1	1	1
Membership	18	18	18	18	10
No. Home Ec. Committees	0	0	0	0	0

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. General Interest Coms.	0	0	1	1	1
No. Youth Committees	0	0	0	0	0
No. Other Organizations	0	0	0	0	0
No. Farm & Home Development Families	3	3	3	3	3
No. other families reached	64	67	69	70	73
No. Different families reached	130	127	137	138	137

B. What Was Done To Increase Scope of Work and To Inform Public  
About Home Demonstration Work

During 1959 we invited non-club members to club meetings, special interest workshops and county-wide meetings to acquaint them with home demonstration work. The home demonstration clubs published their fifth year book which was distributed to club members, other professional workers within the county, supervisory agents and other interested persons.

We got information to families and individuals not in organized clubs through circular letters, leaders, home visits, office and phone calls and newspaper.

V. Leadership

A. Growth of leadership

1. Overall Program leaders

	1957	1958	1959
a. County Agricultural Extension Service Board	10	10	10
b. Youth Council	12	12	12
c. Home Economics Council			

2. Home Demonstration Club Leadership

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. organizational leaders	60	55	55	60	60
No. project leaders (subject-matter)	58	78	65	87	98
No. Federation program of work chairman	12	12	10	10	10
No. program development leaders	12	12	10	10	10
No. result demonstrators	10	17	22	24	15
No. training meetings by specialist	3	2	0	3	1
No. training meetings by District Agents	0	0	0	1	0
No. training meetings by agents	17	14	20	14	20
No. training meetings by others	0	0	0	1	1
Attendance at all training meetings	296	176	246	197	178
No. meetings held without an agent	30	30	26	29	22
No. meetings leaders assisted	60	72	63	67	75
Demonstration by leaders	25	35	24	32	47
Talks and discussions by leaders	45	65	37	41	30

3. H-H Club Leadership

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. club officers	80	88	84	84	96
No. adult project leaders	21	21	21	15	15
No. junior project leaders	11	11	12	13	12
No. Result demonstrators	0	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by specialist	0	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by District Agents	0	0	0	0	0

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. meetings by agents	1	3	5	2	16
No. training meetings by members club dept.	0	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by others	0	1	1	0	0
Total attendance at ldr. training meetings	10	28	86	27	174
No. h-H members trained individually	0	3	3	3	4
No. club meetings held by ldr. without agent	1	3	3	9	1
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	18	17	23	18	23
No. demonstrations given by adult leaders	3	26	15	16	20
No. demonstrations given by junior leaders	3	16	10	24	17

B. Leadership & Accomplishments of an Outstanding Individual

Mrs. Stella Roney, secretary of Mt. Level H. D. club for the past several years have done outstanding work in her community.

She served as subject-matter leader for clothing, food & nutrition and home management and has attended leader training meeting in each. She conducted at least ten demonstrations before her club and answered many questions over phone or by home visits about extension program and other activities. She has not only served as leader for Mt. Level H. D. club but adult h-H leader. She has assisted h-H club members with project work, reports, exhibits and demonstrations. Her four children are h-H club members and her oldest daughter

Audraine won State Advisory Board Scholarship for the next four year.

They built a new home about four years ago and she used information gained at club meetings, etc. to decorate her home. She has made draperies and curtains for windows, refinished two pieces of furniture, made lamp shades and use Early American stencils to decorate trash can, etc.

Mrs. Roney is always ready and willing to assist in carrying out extension program on local, county and state levels.

VI. A. Significant Achievement of Extension in h-H Club Work

We believe that one of the greater problems we had with h-H club work was to arouse enough interest in the h-H program after completion of elementary school.

Through personal contact, home visits, circular letters, bulletins, discussions, interest on part of older h-H club members and parents and group meetings; we aroused the interest of older youth to join the h-H club.

As a result of our effort, we now have two older h-H club groups which meet outside of class room. One meet in the home of leader and the other one meet at the Extension office. The majority of members were former members in elementary school, while a few had not been h-H members before. These older members have attended leader training

meetings, conducted demonstrations, held exhibits and helped other h-H club members with records and project work.

We believe as a result of work done on part of extension agents, leaders and parents that we will have bigger and better older h-H club group in future than in the past.

B. Progress In Developing Good Public Relations In County

County workers, general public, elected representatives, and other professional workers through: attendance at public gatherings such as churches, PTA, etc. inviting them to county-wide and other activities; and discussion on problems which are found within our county.

C. Professional Improvement

1. Attended Communication School
2. Attended Farm & Home Week
3. Read professional magazines and books
4. Judged at Achievement Program and County Fairs in nearby counties.

VII. The Look Ahead  
Appraisal of Year's Work

Through problems based upon needs interest and desires as brought out by leaders, agents and others the program for 1959 was planned. We believe that through attendance at leader training meetings, reading magazines and newspaper articles, discussions, group meetings, method and result demonstrations, county-wide and community activities, reports

that the ~~application~~ and sharing of information gained that the standard of living for the people have been improved.

Suggestions for Improvement

We believe the home economic phase of extension program could be improved through more and better trained leaders, more specialist help in training these leaders more activity participation on part of leaders more flexible program centered around community problems.

Contributions to Family Living - Adult Work

We had 100% attendance of leaders attending leader training meeting on food & nutrition and 90% of these leaders gave demonstration before their respective club groups. Several groups shared information gained at club meeting with non-club members or club members who were working outside home.

Contributions to Family - 4-H Club Work

We believe that part 4-H adult and junior leaders played in raising funds to send delegates and leaders to state meetings such as Shortcourse and Conservation was a great contribution to improved family living. Through their efforts we had our quota of delegates and leaders at State 4-H Shortcourse this year and these delegates made reports at our recent Achievement Day program which was enjoyed by all in attendance.