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ANNUAL REPORT

County Extension Work

1953



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COUNTY

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

Prince George County
1953

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I. COUNTY SITUATION AS IT AFFECTED THE 1953 PROGRAM

With the labor opportunities in Petersburg, Hopewell, and Fort Lee Army Post, I find the county men and women gradually leaving their homes and farms the year round in order to supplement the family income. With the ladies working away from home during the day, it has compelled the agent to hold night meetings in a number of communities that are interested. As a result, we have twelve regular night meetings and seven regular day meetings. Changing a number of the regular meetings from day to night has meant only a slight solution to the problem. The ladies in 85% of the cases must depend upon the men to bring them to the meetings if they are held at night. In many instances the ladies work in the day and the men at night, thus the lady still cannot attend the meeting of her choice. This accounts for the decrease in enrollment, or offers very poor chances for an increase.

Since our chief crops grown in the county are peanuts, tobacco, and a small amount of cotton, a great deal of labor is required for harvesting. With a very limited number of farm labor saving devices, often the children and ladies must harvest the crops while the men continue working in the city. This too, plays a great part in our club attendance records.

II. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE 1953 PROGRAM TO BETTER FAMILY LIVING

Our 1953 program was planned by representatives from our ten home demonstration communities. It is felt that the program definitely

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included some of the subjects that the ladies saw that their respective communities needed help with. Stress was placed not on a larger number of leaders, but on better leadership from the number already attained. These leaders were again informed of their duties and responsibilities. Special attention was given by them to reaching more people directly. There were one-hundred and six method demonstrations given by leaders alone. This not only helped the members that looked on, but often it helped the leader become aware of her capabilities and so from that particular subject she went on to others in a more aggressive manner. The use of result demonstrations in three of the unorganized communities on home improvement and improving poultry flocks influenced a number of people to a much greater extent.

With one of our long time goals being "Better Health through Improved Water Supply and Good Eating," a number of families in the county made definite changes in their water systems. That is eight families started on improved water systems. To this point two of the families have complete systems with the bath room and the other six have the running water in the kitchen only. Plans are yet in process for complete systems. Others improved their old systems.

Work on clothing served to guide families toward spending more wisely and securing only the basic necessities.

From the improvements shown in the well planned meals served, the increase in home food supply, household articles and furnishings made by the members and the use of extension information to elevate

the home and community life, the people realize even more that the rural financial problems can be improved.

III. ADULT WORK

The 1953 program calendar was built around three major projects: clothing, foods, and home improvement. Emphasis was also placed on result demonstrations with reference to such long time goals as: Better living through improved water supply and good eating, convenient and attractive kitchens, and better housing.

A. Foods objectives

1. To reduce expenditures for food through more food preservation and better planning.
2. To assist the busy home maker with time saving menus.

METHODS USED

A leader training meeting was held in April to train leaders for demonstrations in May and June. Home visits were made and general discussions were held at regular meetings.

RESULTS

Twenty-seven method demonstrations were given at Home demonstration meetings. More ladies were encouraged to join clubs or remain members as the result emphasizing simpler and less expensive menus. Eight leaders received direct training. A total of 37,683 quarts of foods was preserved and 2,104 pounds frozen by the club members.

B. Clothing objectives

1. To improve sewing practices learned the previous year.

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2. To improve the selection of clothes with emphasis on various personalities.
3. To reduce clothing expenditures by sewing for the family.
4. To have better dressed rural people.

METHODS USED

A Home Demonstration leader-training meeting was held in the Templeton community. Miss Elsie Copeland, Home Agent of Chesterfield County assisted. Special assistance was given to individual problems and to leaders that could not attend the meeting. A dress revue was given on May 6, as a special interest feature.

RESULTS

Eighteen clothing leaders met in the home of Mrs. Mason Stith on Tuesday, January 6, for information for project work for the months of January, February, and March. Eighty-one home visits were made during the clothing project. Fifty-six members took part in the fashion show. Three shirts, one duster, three aprons, and twelve dresses were modeled by non-club members. These persons were members of the various families that home demonstration members had sewed for. Definite improvement was shown in the selection of clothing with emphasis on body build and personality. It was shown that the clothing project was seeking to meet the individual need.

C. Home Improvement objectives

1. To have more well kept homes.
2. To remove accident hazards.

3. To improve the outside appearance of the home with well kept yards.
4. To landscape as many yards as possible.

METHODS USED

Result demonstrators were selected. Each leader received a list of suggestions and improvements that could be made on yards. She gave these suggestions to each of the club members at regular meetings. The members kept the record sheet and checked each item as the improvements were made.

RESULTS

Very definite improvements were noticed from the ten result demonstrators. Each member made some type of improvement.

As a result of the county being host to the State Advisory Board in September, it encouraged members and non-club members to make as many improvements as possible in about the home. Twenty made definite improvements in kitchens, six worked on landscaping, fifteen bought new home equipment or furnishings, one-hundred and fifteen others made changes in furniture arrangements, color schemes and floor finishes.

D. Housing objectives

1. To have more adequate facilities to meet the family needs.
2. To have more comfortable homes with emphasis on water systems.

METHODS USED

Result demonstrations were continued from the previous year.

Home visits and discussions on water systems were used. General discussions were given on more comfortable and convenient homes.

RESULTS

Three families built new homes. Twelve families remodeled or made major home repairs. Seven improved on storage space or added on space for the storage. Eight installed water systems. Two of these installed complete systems.

E. Other - Poultry objectives

- 1. To improve family food supply.
- 2. To improve family income.
- 3. To create interest in unorganized communities.

METHODS USED

Special information and assistance was given to nineteen poultry demonstrators. Persons were invited to join the poultry club whether they were enrolled in a home demonstration club or not.

Twice a year the flocks were scored by Mr. Lawrence Dean, Poultry Specialist, and the Agent.

RESULTS

Four members enrolled are not members of active Home Demonstration Clubs. Five members made a higher score on the second scoring. Seven others had made improvements in the house or equipment, but had fallen low on egg production.

F. Other activities - An outstanding Family

I feel that our Farm and Home Unit demonstrators, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Green of Route 2, Disputanta, Virginia, may well be chosen as the outstanding family for the year. Mrs. Green is the president of

the Disputanta Home Demonstration Club and has held that office for five years. She is also a member of the county Advisory Board Committee, and a program development and foods leader for her community. Mr. Green is treasurer of the County Advisory Board, the office that he has held for five years and a member of the Men's Community Club.

Two of their three children, Bruce, Jr., and Catherine are 4-H members. The Green's have put forth every effort to carry out the extension recommendations and practices to the best of their abilities. Their home, farm, and wonderful spirit of cooperation is a living example to the entire county.

G. Federation Goal objectives

1. To emphasize better housing and improved water supply through goal chairman, club meetings, and letters.
2. To help the people become aware of the common problems in the general housing conditions in the county.

METHODS USED

Survey was taken of each community covering numbers of homes painted, numbers of homes with solid foundations, numbers of homes with satisfactory screens, etc.

RESULTS

Three families built new homes, twelve families remodeled or made major repairs, sixteen homes were painted, and eight homes installed water systems.

H. Result demonstrations objectives

1. To work more closely with individuals.

2. To better work toward goals set-up.
3. To produce better results and thus encourage more people.

METHODS USED

Result demonstrators for various subjects were chosen by the club members and home demonstration planning committee. Some were volunteers. These demonstrators were given information through letters and home visits. They were asked to attend each leader training meeting pertaining to their subject.

RESULTS

There were thirty-eight demonstrators at work carrying out such projects as poultry, improved kitchens, water systems and housing. Eight of the ten improved water system or installed water systems. Two had the wells cleared and repaired, Six made definite improvements in the kitchen, and seven of the nineteen made poultry house improvements. Three of the home improvement leaders homes were chosen for the tour of the State Advisory Board Delegation in which over five hundred persons heard the stories of the leaders of improvements made.

IV 4-H CLUB WORK

A. Project work

1. Clothing Unit III objectives.
 - a. To learn to use the needle, thimble, and machine correctly while making useful articles.
 - b. To learn how to combine colors.
 - c. To learn to do a decorative stitch.

METHODS USED

A leader training meeting was held in the Loving Union community. Adult and junior leaders attended. Leaders received information for the entire project.

RESULTS

One hundred and thirty members enrolled in the project. Eighty-one completed. Four hundred and five articles and one hundred and sixty-two garments were made. Thirty-seven members took part in the adult fashion show.

B. Other activities

1. Achievement Day --

The 4-H planning committee joined the adult group in making plans for a different type of program this year. Clubs sent in suggestions as to subjects they wanted demonstrated. The demonstrations included freezing meats and vegetables by a home economist from Virginia Electric Power Company, the use of sewing machine attachments and embroidery on the machine by Singer, points to look for in selecting furniture by a Home Economist, and flower arrangement by a county teacher. Approximately 150 adults and 46 4-H members attended. A summary of the years accomplishments and the program of work for the 4-H and adult clubs were given.

2. 4-H Recreation --

The 4-H Council sponsored a days outing at Seaview Beach on Saturday, August 25. Sixty-one 4-H members and leaders

went on the trip. Eighteen visited the beach for the first time. Funds collected from the trip were used in sending delegates to the State 4-H Short Course and the Wild Life Conference at Virginia State College.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

Scope of Work	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Number H D Clubs or Groups	8	9	9	9	10
Membership	114	141	123	125	126
Number 4-H Clubs	10	11	10	12	12
Membership	163	174	95	120	130
Number Y M W Groups	X	X	X	X	X
Membership	X	X	X	X	X
Number of other families reached	75	233	425	430	85
Number of different families reached	X	X	X	X	85
Number of community Clubs	X	X	X	X	X
Membership	X	X	X	X	X

VI. FUNCTIONING OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE 1953 PROGRAM

A. County Board of Agriculture

The board served as the over all planning and promotion group for all extension activities. It used the standing committee to develop neighborhood leader activity. It served as host to State Advisory Board of Virginia for a two day convention. It sponsored

a fund raising activity in April. The amount of \$414.85 was added to the treasure from this affair. It will be used for general expenses.

B. County Home Demonstration Committee

Standing Committees of the H D Clubs were used to bring all clubs together as one working unit. The committee planned the overall program for the year and assisted in carrying it out. Result demonstrations and long time goals were selected according to committee recommendations.

C. County 4-H Project Planning Committee

Two 4-H members and the leader from each club makes up the 4-H project planning committee. These persons meet in a group usually during the month of June to discuss the youth community needs summarize the years work, and plan the program calendar for another year.

D. County 4-H Council

First of the year the Council held one meeting for training officers and discussing members responsibilities. Further meetings were held for making plans for carrying out activities. These plans included club projects and activities.

III. LEADERSHIP

A. Contributions of volunteer leaders to the program.

1. Organizational leaders have done a very important job in the program by placing stress on better organized groups for better clubs.

2. Program Development leaders have succeeded after each program as county activity in receiving general criticisms or approvals from the members. This has aided the attempt to improve or benefit from each activity and also to keep the interest of the members.
3. Subject matter leaders have meant a great deal to the program by assisting the agent in giving information and instructions as well as method demonstrations.

● B. Growth of Leadership Over Four Year Period.

<u>HD CLUB PROJECT LEADERSHIP</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
No. project leaders (subject matter)	29	38	59	63	64
No. goal chairmen	1	1	1	1	1
No. training meetings held by Specialist	X	X	X	X	X
No. training meetings held by Agent	6	9	4	3	11
Attendance at all training meetings	X	X	X	41	26
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	5	4	25	27	21
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	16	46	30	62	73

Growth of L-H Club Project Leadership

No. adult project leaders	16	21	18	10	15
No. junior project leaders	X	7	6	2	2
No. training meetings held by Specialist	X	X	X	X	X
by Agent	13	7	5	1	3
Attendance at leader training meeting	37	19	33	7	12

Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership (Continued)

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	2	5	15	10	17
No. club meetings held by leader without agent present	24	47	42	53	43
No. of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	X	X	X	51	42
No. demonstrations given by:					
leaders	X	X	X	X	X
adults	24	43	50	84	37
juniors	3	2	3	2	6

C. Outstanding Leader

Mrs. Gladys Washington, the leader of the Templeton, may well be chosen as the outstanding leader this year. Though Mrs. Washington has only five years of leadership to her credit, that number of years does not measure the thorough or effective manner in which Mrs. Washington has performed her duties.

Her club consist of 16 girls and 11 boys. Each year she has coaxed and encouraged her members to at least 90% completion. Two years the club had 100% completion and one year 94%.

Mrs. Washington has attended each 4-H Council meeting and has always seen to it that her club takes a very active part in whatever county activity is carried on. During the past year she conducted six method demonstration meetings alone.

VIII. WORK IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

A. Federal Security Agency -- A circular letter was sent explaining Social Security benefits.

- B. American Red Cross -- Objectives of assistance rendered by the Red Cross was discussed in various club meetings that were held during the campaign.
- C. U. S. D. E. Council -- Attended monthly meetings. Passed information received at meeting of particular importance to members by discussion or circular letter.
- D. Public Health -- The Agent served as chairman for the tuberculosis campaign pamphlets were distributed to all communities.

IX. APPRAISAL OF YEARS WORK

Many rural families became more aware of their needs. Many attempted to solve some of their problems through home demonstration and 4-H work. For some the program served as a guide either through general or specific information. Some developed skills and techniques for making articles or planning meals that in the end added to a more satisfactory home and community life.

The leaders willingness to use recommended practices has helped adults and youth to want to plan for improvement and use extension information for better rural living.

The two day visit of the State Advisory Board delegation to the county in September was one of the greatest assets to extension work for the county. Being host to this group put seventy-six leaders to work at once. It aroused the curiosity and stimulated the interest of the entire county. Numerous home improvements were made. Each community in the county took an active part in seeing that our county Advisory Board would be considered a good host.