

IV. General Appraisal of Past Year

Through our organized clubs, projects, leaders, activities and community work in Pittsylvania County, farm families and non-farm families are taking a new outlook as it relates to the farm and home problems.

Good family relationship exists. The entire family is interested in solving problems. They also developed a concern about the importance of their neighborhood.

To strengthen my program, I need stronger program planning procedures.

More leaders are needed and better trained leaders are needed. When more effective evaluation techniques are developed, the programs will improve.

III. Success Story

One of the outstanding projects in the county was the cooperative program carried with the Welfare Department. For the second year each Friday in August is set aside to work with clients coming in for their monthly food supply. These are the people hardest to reach back in the communities. Charts were made explaining the basic food groups and the importance of each. How to shop for bargains to supplement the foods given, how to prepare the foods in various ways and how to set the table correctly was also discussed. An average of fifty persons are reached each week.

I have received many rewarding reactions and made many new friends as a result of the demonstration.

I am very happy to have had the opportunity to reach so many families and to have a part in helping homemakers when they need information.

Contests were held in the county during the year in bread-making, meal preparation, "Dress Revue", "Looking Your Best," "So You Like to Sew", and Make or Re-make. Eighty-four 4-H Club members entered the contests. Winners of each phase entered the district contest. Pittsylvania County contestants took first place in seven of the eight contests and second in the other one. The Plaque was presented to us for having the highest score in the district. The district winners entered the State Contest held at Virginia State College and won first place in the state in Bread-making, Meal Preparation, Looking Your Best and second place in the Dress Revue.

The demonstrations have been presented to twelve schools to over five hundred boys and girls which provides an opportunity for them to learn skills and gain new knowledge and attitudes.

The observance of Rural Life Sunday was celebrated in May on various Sundays. Clubs recognized and emphasized the spiritual value and character-building qualities of 4-H Club work. Letters were written to ministers explaining the purpose of the program and asking them to help us bring the objective of Rural Life Sunday before the people. The leaders served as chairmen and members participated in the choir, lifted the collection, placed flower arrangements and read papers.

In observing "Rural Life Sunday", we feel it enable 4-H members to associate church activities with everyday living.

Achievement Days

Achievement Days were held in the various communities. Reports for the year were made. The parents attended in large numbers. Many expressed that they were better able to appreciate what their boys and girls were doing. Recognition was given to parents who had cooperated in any way. Special recognition and awards were given to 4-H Club members who had done outstanding work.

Fairs

Pittsylvania County Home Demonstration Clubs and 4-H Clubs participated in the Greater Danville Fair. Pittsylvania H.D. Club won first prize in competition with Henry and Franklin Counties, in educational exhibits. 4-H Club members competed in the general exhibit and won prizes in clothing, foods, sweet potatoes, and corn.

Area of WorkClothing

4-H Club members were interested in keeping themselves and their families looking neat and attractive. "So You Like to Sew" was carried on in each club. The girls were taught the fundamentals of sewing. The following articles were made: laundry bags, head scarfs, skirts and towels. The laundry bag made the biggest hit. Two hundred and one bags were completed, one hundred and nine skirts, ninety-six head scarfs and twenty-six towels.

This project gave the girls much pride and just as important was the pleasure and satisfaction that they got out of learning how to sew. It is evident by their interest that they would make many more. This project also helped to develop the abilities and talents of the local leaders.

The 4-H boys carried on projects in safety. One hundred and nine reported hazards from the farm and in the home. Seventy-nine made needed repairs in the home and eleven worked toward preventing accidents.

The Wildlife Project was carried on by eighty-nine boys. Birds of this area were studied and some two hundred birdhouses were made by plans from V.P.I.

Bird Davis and John Mims attended the Wildlife Conference at Virginia State College along with their leader, Rev. Willie Toomer, of Cascade, Virginia.

Area of work

Food Preservation

The objective of this phase of work is to have well-fed families through a home grown and conserved food supply. Recommended methods of freezing, canning, preserving and storing must be used for maximum nutritive value.

The agent continued giving information on canning quality foods and using pressure to non-acid foods and meats. Families who participate in the preservation program know that foods produced, preserved and stored are like money in the bank. Twenty-five food preservation leaders were trained and they shouldered the responsibility in getting more families to produce, preserve and store more foods. They gave sixty-nine demonstrations, passed out and collected information, and kept the women informed with the latest information on canning.

Area of Work

Frozen Food Program

This line of food conservation grew rapidly during the year and sixteen home freezers were purchased. It was observed that families used better wrapping methods and products are now of higher standards. There were sixty-one thousand pounds of food reported frozen in the county, one hundred and one, five hundred ninety-three quarts reported canned and three hundred and one families planned and followed recommendations of preservation.

of the livliest topics on the program, forty-two families, who never thought of doing so before, made a will. Many who had lost deeds had copies made.

It is believed that this phase of work was very beneficial to club members. It met their needs as well as serving as an educational program. As a result of this program, fifty-two people came to us for information on this phase of work. Twenty-six of the above number are non-members.

One hundred seventy-nine women took advantage of the study on "Insurance." Many reported this information invaluable. The insurance executive sent us many types of material to distribute and gave us two evenings of his time. Different policies were discussed to meet the needs of the family. Stress was put on what we have and what is covered. Many did not really know. Equally important, they found, is to understand what is not covered.

Health insurance was discussed, along with various plans and what they cover.

Families were made to realize that insurance is the keynote of continuous and increasing financial stability. As a result of this study, sixteen families took out health insurance, and twelve took out life insurance policies. Others are more conscious of insurance and the benefits they offer.

The agent counselled with them in the use of the planning guide to determine family goals, assisted the families in budgeting and discussed various alternatives.

Families realize now that they may have a better living by having an increased income, by adjusting the use of the resources with which they have and by increasing their knowledge and skill.

To follow up these conferences, Miss Amelia Fuller, Specialist, visited the county and conducted a leaders school on "Management of Time and Energy" with the group. Each family made definite decisions.

There are thirty-one families in the county keeping family records, and are budgeting and planning the family income wisely.

This phase of the program also gave us an opportunity to invite a credit officer in. He discussed "Credit Is A Friend When In Need," different kinds of credit, rates of interest, how to borrow, etc. The credit officer made himself available to study financial problems. We feel this lesson will long be remembered and greatly improved in the same situations in the county.

Mr. York, local banker, visited the H. D. County wide meeting. He discussed "Doing Business at the Bank." Two hundred twenty-two men and women attended this meeting. One family, who never believed in banks, are now banking their money instead of hiding it in their home. As a result of this meeting, more families are doing business at the various banks.

Lawyer J. L. Williams of Danville, Virginia assisted the agent with the lesson on "Wills, Deeds and Inheritance." This being one

II. Report on Project Areas

A. Family Economics and Food Conservation

1. This phase involved six farm families to promote the development of their families.
2. The objective of this phase of work was to help increase the family income by the study of "How to Budget" and increase their ability to make good decisions in regards to use of income, credit and investments.
3. Pittsylvania County women have learned that it is a good thing to be sensible and thoughtful about money. It is a good thing to have a plan for spending and saving, and to try to follow it. This is true not just because good money management makes money go further, but because a plan can mean more happiness, less fuss with money, and a better, saner attitude toward life.

One hundred and eighty-nine women worked toward finding a richer, better life. By observing individual family resources, problems, and needs, many situations are now being improved. They now realize the secret to the success of how well family decisions are made is how well family members plan together.

During the year thirty-six families sat down with the entire family and agent to discuss their farm and home activities and goals for the future.

in the group to be more effective as members and as future leaders.

The agent is spending considerable time in trying to develop capable, resourceful, unselfish leadership. Their unselfish service, their objective analysis of conditions, their constructive recommendations, and their sustained effort toward worthy goals, I commend.

Through extension work, a responsible leadership is being developed. I find the women thinking in broad terms of the farm family and community. They are establishing standards for homemaking and helping to bring them about. They are finding new opportunities through service and progressing toward the goal of well-informed, efficient happy families.

I. Involvement of Local Leadership in Planning and Carrying Out the Extension Program

Leaders in Pittsylvania County have proven to be invaluable and made a wonderful contribution toward the success of the program. There is a continuous communication between the club members which gives them an opportunity to always be aware of feelings, needs and expectations.

The leaders assisted in analyzing the county situation and determining the immediate needs of the county. A survey sheet was sent out on county needs. The leaders assisted in collecting the facts, compiling and summarizing them. The leaders brought in suggestions from their respective clubs and assisted with planning from the over-all program. Each explained the goals to homemakers and to the public where necessary. They have also assisted the agent in finding leaders and one leader helped to train another. Many assembled materials from method demonstrations and gave demonstrations, helped to set up the fair and 4-H Club Week Exhibit, gave publicity on various activities and represented at county, district and state meetings.

Leadership in the county shows more flexibility and change from one activity or situation to another with more ease.

The leader continually helps the group to do well in the activity it is engaged in, continually tries to improve the executive of his share of the leadership functions, and helps others

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Narrative Report
of
Home Demonstration Work
and
4-H Club Work
in
Pittsylvania County
from
January 1, 1962 to
December 31, 1962

By

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Local Home Agent

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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Extension Agent

Extension Agent

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1962

Pittsylvania

County