

# ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

## COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

### *Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

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1959

CHARLOTTE

**County**

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## IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO FAMILY LIVING

### 1. The Improved Lighting Program

In looking back over the year's program the agent would place the Improved Lighting Program first. This decision is based on comments by club members and outsiders, on the participation and interest of homemakers, by the cooperation received from power suppliers in demonstrations given and material provided for leaders' use, and in the cooperation of our local merchants in stocking the bulbs needed and the offer of space for exhibits.

This program has a potential in every home. There is a need which is immediately recognized and an opportunity for improvement, at often a very small cost.

Charlotte County families are definitely becoming more conscious of the lighting in their homes and are beginning to make some improvements in the way of correct bulbs and by replacing improper lamps with those designed for reading.

### 2. Housefurnishings Program Makes Important Contribution to 1959 Program

Next in importance in looking back over the 1959 program is the House-furnishings program which has been of especial interest to the younger group of homemakers in the county. These four demonstrations have had direct application to those who were building new homes or moving to larger apartments. More requests have come to the agent for assistance in planning and selection of furnishings than in any two years before. These same young members have in most instances volunteered as leaders for these demonstrations. The cooperation of our local merchants has contributed much in this direction. They have very willingly loaned furniture for leaders' meetings and have discussed comparative values with members who visited the store for group instruction.

## 1959 ANNUAL REPORT

### I. COUNTY SITUATION

Charlotte County is an agricultural county located in the Southern Piedmont plateau with an area of 496 square miles.

Agriculture is the main source of income, although in recent years several small textile manufacturing plants have located in the county. These employ around 600 workers, mostly white farm women. Nearly all women living on tobacco farms assist with preparing the tobacco for market.

According to the 1955 Census there are 1904 farms averaging 112.7 acres in size. The Census states that 75% of the population lives on farms. The county population is 52% white and 48% negro.

Tobacco, both flue cured and fire cured, provides more than one half of the value of sales from farm products. The median income from farm products is \$1372. Timber manufacturing and cutting pulpwood are also important industries.

The 1955 Census states that 97% of the farm homes are wired for electricity, 90% have radio, around 60% have television, 33% have piped running water and 6.5% have telephones. This should be higher as five communities, Red Oak, Wyliesburg, Aspen, Phenix and Madisonville have secured phone service since the Census was taken.

Drakes Branch, Charlotte Court House, Phenix and Keysville are incorporated towns with a total population of 1,787 in 1950.

There is one consolidated white high school serving the entire county with an enrollment of around 600. There are five white elementary schools. Each school operates a cafeteria. Four community canneries are operated seasonally. These are located at Wyliesburg, Aspen, Madisonville and Charlotte Court House. There is no community frozen food locker within the county. The 1955 Census reported 230 farm homes with home freezers. This, of course, is much higher.

### II. COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM - ADULT

#### A. The Overall Program

##### 1. County Agricultural Extension Service Board

The County Agricultural Extension Service Board is composed of representatives of the 10 communities. It has for its purpose program planning and determining policies for the promotion of agricultural progress in the county. Chairmen of commodity groups

and leaders in other organized groups in the county are included on the board.

2. Home Economics Council

The Home Economics Council is composed of a group of key women representing the 10 communities of the county. They are responsible for studying the county situation and for selecting the areas of work to be emphasized in the county program.

3. General Interest Committees

a. Nutrition Committee

The County Nutrition Committee, composed of Mrs. W. R. Wilson, Mrs. Millard Rice and Mrs. H. E. McSwain are responsible for obtaining such facts as are available related to the nutritional level of the county population. They gave careful consideration to those areas in which there seemed to be a need for further information. This information was presented through home demonstration club programs in connection with the food demonstrations. Posters and printed material related to the use of milk and the basic 7 group of food were made available to the elementary teachers to use in connection with their health program. The weekly radio program was also used to get information to the public.

b. Improved Home Lighting

The Improved Home Lighting Committee, composed of Mrs. Donald Canada, Mrs. J. W. Poindexter, Mrs. W. V. Furcell, Jr., Mrs. F. W. Bartholomew, Mrs. W. E. Mason and Mrs. W. E. Thomas, had as its objective acquainting the public with the need for improving home lighting. The activities of this committee is written up more fully under subject matter area.

4. County Home Economics Committee

The County Home Economics Committee is composed of the presidents of the 13 home demonstration clubs, the 13 county program of work chairmen and the executive officers. This committee met twice to transact business related to the county as a whole. At the spring meeting progress was reported on goal activities, plans were made for the district federation meeting, the observance of Home Demonstration Week, and other events in which the members planned to participate.

At the fall meeting the countywide program was planned and

objectives determined for the federated program of work.

B. Subject and Special Emphasis Areas

1. Food and Nutrition Received Continued Interest

Four demonstrations were held related to Food and Nutrition. Club discussions revealed that many homemakers found it difficult to identify the different cuts of meat and that there was also a need for more information on preparing meats from the less expensive cuts. The calorie conscious group wanted something on Low Calorie Meals.

The demonstration for January was "The Know How of Buying Meat", followed in February by "Tempting Meals from Thrifty Meat Cuts". Low Calorie Meals were demonstrated in May, followed by Variety in Home Produced Foods.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To enable the homemaker to become a more intelligent consumer by learning to identify the different cuts of meat as related to cost.
- b. To acquaint the homemaker with correct methods of meat cookery and recipes which will aid her in preparing tasty, nutritious meals from the less expensive cuts.
- c. To present nutritional information which will be of practical value in planning and preparing meals which are high in nutritional value, but low in calories.
- d. To familiarize the homemaker with new ideas for preparing home produced vegetables and fruits.

Two leaders' training meetings were held by the extension food specialists to prepare the leaders for their demonstrations, with a combined attendance of 61. At this time the leaders of the 13 clubs were given recipes, charts, and other appropriate material related to these topics. Radio broadcast and weekly newspaper articles were used in an effort to bring this information to the unenrolled homemaker.

2. Housefurnishings Received Renewed Interest

Five demonstrations on Housefurnishings were given. Topics for these were as follows: March, Choosing Attractive Color Combinations

for the Home; Comfortable and Attractive Living Room Arrangement; two topics on improved home lighting were an outgrowth of the committee work on lighting; August, Planning for Adequate Home Lighting; September, Selection of Portable Lamps and Shades; November, Getting Your Money's Worth in Buying Furniture.

There is a growing interest among the young homemakers in the county for information on color combinations and color schemes, and attractive room arrangement. Many of these young women are building new homes or moving from apartments into separate houses as their growing families demand. The requests for the above mentioned demonstrations have come principally from this group.

The lighting demonstrations were requested as a result of the interest of the Lighting Committee. It took a bit of prodding to enable the members to feel the need for this type of information.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To suggest pleasing color combinations for the home.
- b. To suggest pleasing arrangements that will enable the homemaker to have a more attractive and livable home.
- c. To acquaint the family with better lighting through adequate wiring and the proper choice of lamps and shades.
- d. To give the homemaker certain information that will enable her to make more satisfactory choices when buying furniture.

Three leaders' training meetings were held in preparation for these demonstrations. Two on Color Planning, Arrangement and Selection of Furniture were conducted by the Extension Specialists. Those on Lighting were conducted by representatives of neighboring power suppliers.

Appropriate mimeographed material was made available from the State Extension Office, supplemented by bulletins, slides and posters which were prepared in the county office. Six of the clubs met with a neighboring furniture dealer for a discussion on Comparative Values in the Selection of Furniture. These were most informative. The agent has had many requests for assistance in selection of furnishings, planning color schemes and for making draperies. There has been a noticeable interest among homemakers of both age groups who are using the information gained to make their home more comfortable and attractive.

Two families held open house in the spring after remodeling their lighting according to approved standards. Power supplier representatives, extension specialists and county agents assisted with plans for improved lighting of both homes and for remodeling one. Around 50 families visited these homes on tour.

To date around 60 recommended lamps have been purchased through the power suppliers and at least 50 families have improved their lighting by using bulbs of the correct wattage. At least one merchant in each of the villages is carrying the right saving bulbs. Members of the Phenix H. D. Club prepared an exhibit on Selection of the Correct Bulb which won first place at the Five County Fair. Leaders presented one television program over WRVA on Selection of Lamps for Good Lighting.

One medallion home is being completed in the Wylliesburg Community. The owners worked directly with the power supplier in planning their wiring and in securing their fixtures.

Two monthly demonstrations were held on Improved Lighting. One of these on Planning for Adequate Home Lighting was given by representatives of the power suppliers using especially prepared illustrative material. The other on Selection of Correct Lamps and Shades was given by trained leaders with illustrative material furnished by the power suppliers. Mrs. Jane Jones of WEPCCO and Mrs. Mary Scott of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative also met with the lighting committee to help them make plans for 1960.

Club members voluntarily expressed the opinion that this was one of the best series of demonstrations that they have had. There has been a noticeable awareness of their need and a growing interest in making a start toward improving their lighting. The committee had made plans for continuing this effort during 1960.

### 3. Safety Alerts Homemakers to Home Hazards

Safety was chosen for the December program with especial emphasis on Christmas Lighting.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To make the family more conscious of hazards in and around the farm home.
- b. To especially emphasize safe practices in regards to Christmas lighting.

- c. To stimulate the family in removing hazards and following safe practices.

The agent held one training meeting using material furnished by the chairman of the State Safety Committee and material from the National Safety Council.

#### 4. Kitchen Work Centers Receive Emphasis Under Home Management

Many homemakers acknowledged that their kitchens were poorly arranged for efficiency. Even in some of the more recently built homes this was the case. As a result of this need, the demonstration for October was on Planning Kitchen Work Centers to Save Time and Effort.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To acquaint the homemaker with recommended standards for kitchen planning.
- b. To enable her to rearrange her kitchen for greater convenience and for saving time and energy.

One training meeting was conducted for leaders by the extension specialist in Home Management. She also supplied each leader with blue prints of Before and After kitchen arrangements, slides and bulletins. The county extension agent prepared posters illustrating the arrangement of the main work centers.

Not enough time has elapsed since this demonstration for a complete evaluation. However, the interest created indicates a desire on the part of many homemakers to reorganize their kitchens for greater efficiency. One homemaker reported that by changing the location of her refrigerator she estimated a saving of over 10,000 steps per year. Others are reporting improvements made and others are requesting the help of the agent or specialist in doing a complete planning and remodeling job.

#### 5. Clothing of Interest to Special Groups

While no clothing work was included in the program as monthly topic, there was considerable interest among some of the younger members. Special interest classes in clothing construction were offered in the Keysville community. These classes were conducted by the agent with the assistance of a skilled adult leader.

The objective of these classes was to enable the homemakers to

develop greater skill in clothing selection and simple construction. Non-club members were included.

Special Interest Clothing Construction Project Meets Needs of  
Keysville Homemakers

The Keysville N. D. Club is composed principally of homemakers in their early twenties, all with small children. Most of these girls are in the small salaried group. During the summer of 1958 they expressed the need of knowing more about sewing in order to stretch their incomes by sewing for themselves and their children.

The agent agreed to meet with them one night a week, assisted by Mrs. W. E. Mason, club president.

They were given instruction in care and use of the sewing machine, selection of fabric, preparation of fabric for cutting, reading pattern directions and altering commercial patterns and in simple construction. They made such things as simple blouses, children's skirts, pajamas, simple housedresses and tailored curtains.

The agent and two members with portable machines brought them to the meetings. During each meeting there would be a sharing experience when members would explain to others of the group any part of the construction which was different to what the others were doing.

These meetings continued weekly, with only an occasional exception, over a period of three months, December, January and February. An estimate of 20 garments was completed during this time. One member, the mother of four, after a few weeks instruction, purchased a sewing machine. Until that time she had depended upon her neighbors when sewing or alterations needed to be done.

In looking back over this project the agent feels that it was satisfying both to her and to the members. One cannot measure the feeling of pride of accomplishment nor estimate the savings which will result from this instruction. During the summer months two of the members have made new draperies for their entire homes.

Indications are that this group will meet again for further instructions after the Christmas holidays.

6. Recreation and Community Life

One month was left open for club choice or community picnics.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To promote fellowship and friendly relations among members of the group.
- b. To encourage wholesome fun and fellowship in a rural county.

All clubs held a picnic for their families during July. A community Christmas dinner or club party was a special activity of each club during December. Several communities sponsored community Thanksgiving dinners.

C. Federated Program of Work

Art in Daily Living was chosen as the Federated Program of Work. This was the first time that this program had been carried.

The aim of this program was: To enrich our lives by learning to appreciate and to enjoy the simple things of everyday life, thereby developing a fine sense of values.

The activities selected were those relating to Nature.

- a. Wild flowers - Learn those in communities and observe their natural habitat.
- b. Birds - Observe and know ones in yard. Feed in winter, plant shrubs to attract.
- c. Flowers - Become flower arrangement conscious. Attend flower shows, go garden touring.

Each club elected a Program of Work Chairman to be responsible for bringing something on this topic to the attention of her fellow members during the brief time allotted her at each meeting.

The county chairman did an excellent job in providing material for the leaders to use in their monthly talks. As a result there was hardly a month in which each club did not have something to present.

The chairman held a meeting of her club chairmen in January and

discussed plans for the year. Previously she had worked out monthly topics which went into the year books. One month slides of our native birds were shown, another month the wild flower slides were shown in each club. The Fearstown Club had a meeting on Making Dried Arrangements with the leader of a neighboring club giving the demonstration.

D. Other Activities

1. District and State Federation Meetings

Charlotte County was hostess to the district at Longwood College in Farmville because of lack of a suitable meeting place in the county. Members assumed all responsibility for the arrangements.

The county federation sent nine delegates to the State Federation meeting with expenses paid. There were six delegates to the State Federation from the different clubs in the county.

2. National Home Demonstration Week

National Home Demonstration Week was observed, and publicity was given through news articles and radio. An especial effort was made to enroll new members during the month of May. Observance continued throughout the month in order that each club might have an opportunity to participate. Around six new members were enrolled during this time.

This observance was concluded with a countywide picnic and tour of new and remodeled homes and gardens within the county. This event was considered a great success with around 60 members and guests in attendance.

3. Tours

Club members enjoyed three tours during the year. Two of these, the countywide tour and picnic in observance of Home Demonstration Club Week and the Improved Lighting tours have already been described. In September 60 members visited WRVA-TV Station at their invitation, later visiting the Valentine Museum and White House of the Confederacy. It was on this Studio Party presentation that two of our leaders gave the demonstration of Selecting Correct Lamp and Shade for Reading and Study. Two smaller groups visited nearby textile plants, a garment factory and model dairy.

These tours mean much to the women in this rural county. Not only

do they benefit from the educational side of the tour, but it promotes friendly relations and a very pleasant side of club membership.

4. Fairs and Judging

Members participated in both the Farmville Five County Fair and the Mocklenburg South Central Fair in both individual and club exhibits. Four of these members served as superintendents of departments and two assisted in judging these and several other fairs.

5. Organized Drives

Home Demonstration Club members served as chairmen and solicitors in annual drives of the Red Cross, Cancer, March of Dimes and Heart. Two clubs purchased T.B. bonds.

6. Work in Unorganized Communities

An attempt was made to reach people in unorganized communities through news releases, bulletins and radio. The agent was prompt to answer requests for assistance through home visits.

Home visits to 4-H Club members offered opportunities to becoming acquainted with families otherwise not contacted through club organizations.

Home demonstration work was publicized through:

- a. Local newspapers in weekly news releases dealing with the activities and projects of the local clubs. Each club has its reporter who is responsible for reporting special activities relating to her individual club.
- b. Activities of interest were reported over radio station WFLE which covers the county.
- c. Result demonstrations
- d. Tours.
- e. Exhibits and displays at fairs and during National H. D. Club Week.
- f. Through the enthusiasm of the agent and club members it

is believed that the public has become better acquainted with the program.

### III. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Charlotte is one of the pilot counties in Farm and Home Development in which work was tried on an area basis. Around 40 families in the Red Oak and Madisonville areas were contacted and offered the services of the program. Of this original group approximately 10 homemakers have evidenced interest in the program. One handicap has been the large number of women in the Red Oak area who work away from home. Often these women are on six day work, leaving no time for home visiting.

Since shifting from area to county basis, other families have been contacted until a total of around 31 have received special assistance.

The agent has been limited until recently because of the lack of an assistant. While no new families have been started with a complete plan during the year, the agent has done considerable work with five new families on such problems as remodeling plans, kitchen planning and home ground improvement.

Group meetings on Social Security and Income Tax Returns held at Eureka and at Aspen, were well attended. Farm and Home record books were made available and assistance was given these members requesting them. Monthly garden information was sent to those who wanted this type of information.

### IV. COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM - YOUTH

#### A. Organization

##### 1. County Youth Council

The County Youth Council composed of 16 adult and two senior 4-H Club members held one meeting to advise in matters regarding the establishment of a more effective 4-H Club program.

##### Objectives were as follows:

- a. To better acquaint local key people with opportunities offered in 4-H Club work.
- b. To use their aid in securing project leaders.

- c. To secure their help in determining the phases of the 4-H program to be emphasized.

Council members assisted in training members for county and district competition. They provided facilities for member training such as dairy, livestock and poultry.

They helped provide transportation to county and district contests and encouraged participation in same. They encouraged members to exhibit at fairs and assisted in collecting exhibits and in entering them for competition.

## 2. County 4-H Council

The County 4-H Council, composed of officers of the 17 clubs, met immediately after club organization had been completed to train officers and to set up goals for the current year.

This afforded valuable training especially for new officers. Agents and leaders provided transportation and led discussion groups.

The 4-H Council prepared an exhibit of overall 4-H Club work which won first place in the South Central Fair and fourth in the Five County Fair. A part of these earnings was used to defray the expenses of one 4-H Club leader to the Leaders' Conference at Natural Bridge. Other activities included the purchase of two 4-H Highway Welcome Signs.

## 3. All Stars

County All Stars met during the Christmas vacation and recommended candidates for 1959. One boy and one girl were taken into the All Stars during the year. At present there are nine All Stars in the county. Three of these are enrolled in high school, all others taken in in recent years are either in college or employed outside the county.

All Stars contributed to the 4-H program by serving as leaders in observance of 4-H Club Week, Rural Life Sunday, assisting with camps and Short Course, in helping prepare members for district and state contests and assisting with fair exhibits.

## 4. Project Planning Committee

A committee of representative members from the high school and 6th and 7th grade clubs met with the agents at the beginning of the school year to select in-school projects and related activities to

be considered in 1959-60.

**B. 4-H Project Work**

**1. Home Grounds Beautification**

Home Grounds Beautification was chosen by the committee as an in-school project for all clubs in the elementary schools. There were 182 members enrolled.

Objectives were these:

- a. Encourage members to assume responsibility for the care of their yard and surroundings.
- b. Help members to develop an appreciation of flowers, shrubs, and trees by learning to identify and to plant and care for same.

Appropriate topics were selected for each monthly discussion. Members were given record books and other appropriate material. Slides, pictures and flannelgraph were used. Members were encouraged to make leaf and flower collections to aid in identifying same.

This project was a means of creating interest in the home and surroundings. Members showed more interest in caring for the lawn, in planting and caring for flowers and in learning the names of flowering plants and shrubs.

Project books were kept at school and checked during each club meeting. The vice president was responsible for distributing and collecting the books. Members were allowed to take their books home at the end of school and it has been difficult to collect them, many seemingly having been misplaced during summer vacation.

**2. Food Preparation**

Food Preparation including Bread, was carried by 192 members as a year around project.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To enable member to read and to follow a simple recipe.
- b. To enable members to acquire basic skills in the preparation of simple meals.

- c. To stimulate interest in preparing simple nutritious foods.
- d. To encourage the girl to become a more responsible and useful member of her family group.
- e. To teach her simple nutritional facts.

Method demonstrations were given by adult and junior leaders working with groups after school hours. There were three of these groups in three different communities. Members unable to get in groups worked under their mothers' directions. The agent supplied necessary project material and work sheets. Members exhibited at the County and Five County fairs.

Judging by the interest of the members and completions this project has been a very successful one.

### 3. Clothing I and II

There were 99 members enrolled in clothing and related projects. Of this number 32 were enrolled in Make or Remake; 67 were enrolled in So You Want To Sew.

Objectives of these projects were as follows:

- a. To enable members to develop basic skills in the construction of a simple garment.
- b. To encourage the member to make a clothing plan.
- c. To enable the member to select a simple appropriate pattern and material and to construct a simple fitted garment.
- c. To encourage pride in personal appearance.

Method demonstrations were given by trained leaders or by the mothers of the children in the basic techniques of clothing construction. Group instruction was given by trained leaders in two communities.

Appropriate project material and mimeographed material was supplied by the agent. Members exhibited in two fairs and participated in the dress revue.

There was difficulty in getting capable leaders to work with the girls on clothing. This has held us back in this particular project. The

agent has made a real effort to interest leaders in taking the Know Your Sewing Machine instruction. She believes that this will be an aid in getting more leader participation in 1960

4. Housekeeping

Housekeeping was selected by 79 members.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To teach the member correct methods and work habits in caring for her room.
- b. To encourage her to assume responsibility for certain selected tasks and thereby become a more efficient member of the family group.
- c. To encourage her in developing habits of neatness and orderliness in caring for the house.

Club members were supplied project material and instruction by the agent and worked under the direction of their mothers or a trained leader.

Judging by the number enrolled and completions this was a successful project, one that the girls enjoyed and one that encouraged them in taking more responsibility at home.

5. Room Improvement

Your Room was selected by 16 members as a year around project.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To encourage the member to assume responsibility for the care of her room.
- b. To encourage the member to rearrange her room for appearance and convenience.
- c. To help the member to develop judgment in the selection of furnishings for her room.
- d. To help the member to develop skills in making or re-finishng articles for her room.

The agent supplies necessary bulleting and information

relating to this project.

6. Family Laundry

There were 64 members enrolled in the home laundry project, two in laundry and 62 in ironing.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To enable the member to acquire skills in ironing different types of garments.
- b. To demonstrate improved methods of doing the family laundry and to develop her skill in same.
- c. To encourage the member to improve her laundry and ironing equipment.
- d. To enable the member to assume responsibility for the care of her clothes and those of other members of her family.

The agent supplied bulletins and mimeographed material related to these projects. Young members worked under the guidance of their mothers.

In many instances the mothers of the older girls were working and they were able to assume responsibility for this part of the work in the home. This, we consider, has been a very practical and successful project.

7. Home Vegetable Garden

The Home Vegetable Garden project was carried by 27 members. Of this number 17 were beginner gardens and 10 were family gardens.

Objectives were these:

- a. To teach the member to make a garden plan.
- b. To encourage variety in planting the vegetable garden.
- c. To help the member gain experience in planting and in cultivation a garden.
- d. To teach proper methods of pest control.
- e. Through record keeping, to help the member to appreciate the value of the home garden.

Members were given individual instructions by their agent. Those enrolled in Unit I were visited four times during the summer. Beginner gardens were visited once. The girls worked closely with their parents who supervised and advised them and gave needed assistance. Circular letters were mailed monthly carrying timely information.

Six of the ten members enrolled in Unit I completed. This project is a valuable one for the many learning experiences that it offers. It is encouraging to notice the interest among the younger members who were enrolled for the first time this year in a garden project.

### 8. Food Preservation

There were 14 members enrolled in canning and 14 in freezing projects.

Objectives were these:

- a. To teach correct methods of packaging foods for freezing.
- b. To teach correct methods of canning.
- c. To encourage members to make a food plan.
- d. To enable members to judge quality of canned and frozen food.
- e. To add variety and interest to family meals by canning and conserving a greater variety of fruits and vegetables.
- f. To improve the nutrition of the family by conserving a greater abundance of fruits and vegetables.

Because of their scattered location it was not possible to give group instruction to these clubmembers. However each worked under the instruction of her mother with the exception of six girls in the Oakdale Community Club, who were trained by experienced project leaders. Each of the girls exhibited canned foods at the fair and six enrolled in family garden project made canning exhibits also.

### C. 4-H Activities

1. Camp and Short Course

Twelve girls attended Nolliday Lake District Camp. Two older members attended as junior leaders. There were six girls who attended State Short Course.

2. Achievement Day

Achievement Day was observed as in the past with a one day fair at Randolph-Henry High School. This activity was held in connection with the Vocational Education Department of the high school with exhibits and activities limited to members of 4-H F.H.A. and F.F.A. organizations.

All club members attended as this considered a school day. Buses bring the children to the fair, each school having a part in a planned program.

3. District Contests

There were eight girls participating in district contests. Six of these placed, four going to Short Course to compete for state honors. Three members entered record books in the Achievement Contests.

4. Fairs and Exhibits

Exhibits were entered in three fairs, County, Five County and South Central. There were around 100 more individual exhibits made at the county fair than in previous years. Prize winning exhibits of overall 4-H activities were entered in both Five County and South Central fairs. These were prepared by County Council members.

5. 4-H Club Week

Posters were placed in each of the elementary schools to publicize 4-H Club Week. An especially attractive bulletin board was prepared at Randolph-Henry High School with Laurice Hamlett as chairman. Especially prepared programs over radio station WFLO gave further emphasis.

6. Rural Life Sunday

Rural Life Sunday was observed in the Midway Community. Laurice Hamlett, junior leader of the Oakdale 4-H Club, presented an evening worship service at the Midway Baptist Church. Members

of the Community Club took part in the program.

7. Tours

Gora Lea Elder, district winner in the Bread project, was invited by the Virginia Bakers Council to visit a modern steam bakery, with her agent, parents and club leader. Arrangements were made to take other members of her community club. There were six girls who had the opportunity of visiting this bakery. This was a most interesting experience to both leaders and club members.

V. SCOPE OF WORK

A. Organization

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. H. D. Clubs	12	13	13	14	13
Membership	242	255	262	274	266
No. H. D. Groups (unorganized)	0	0	0	0	0
No. 4-H Clubs	17	18	18	17	17
Membership	320	248	277	273	262
No. YNS Clubs	0	0	9	0	0
No. Community Clubs	0	0	0	0	0
No. Home Ec. Committees	1	1	1	1	1
No. General Interest Committees	0	0	2	2	2
No. Youth Committees	0	0	1	1	1
No. other Organizations	0	0	0	0	0
No. Farm & Home Development Families	0	20	21	29	20
No. Other families reached	300	283	285	290	300
No. Different families reached	700	650	575	600	600

B.

The agent feels that she has been reasonably successful in her efforts to increase the scope of home demonstration work in the county. This is measured by requests coming from individuals in unorganized communities and from comments from those whom she meets.

A weekly 15 minute radio program over station WFLO has been a very effective means of getting subject matter material to the public and of informing them of activities of the extension program. The weekly newspaper is another means. Others include talks to civic groups, P. T. A., Woman's Club and others. In 1959, the agent presents programs to the Keysville Woman's Club, the Drakes Branch P.T.A., Chase City Garden Club, and Randolph-

Henry F.H.A.

Home visits are valuable and an effort has been made to visit 4-H Club members and families recently moved to the community to become better acquainted and to offer the services of extension. Exhibits, tours and field trips are other popular means of creating an awareness of extension activities. Requests for assistance are answered courteously and promptly either for home visits or for bulletins and other extension material.

VI. LEADERSHIP

A. Growth of Leadership

1. Overall Program Leaders

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
a. County Agricultural Extension Board			
b. Youth Council			
c. Home Economics Council	16	16	16

2. Home Demonstration Club Leadership

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
No. organizational leaders	36	46	48	56	52
No. project leaders (subject matter)	81	77	67	110	106
No. Federation program of work chairmen	12	12	13	13	13
No. program development leaders	12	11	13	13	13
No. result demonstrators	8	8	8	10	10
No. training meetings by specialists	6	5	6	4	5
No. training meetings by dist. agents	0	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by agents	1	3	2	3	2
No. training meetings by others	0	0	1	0	1
Attendance at all training meetings	75	152	141	85	121
No. meetings held without an agent	38	46	44	38	43
No. meetings leaders assisted	42	81	65	39	48
Demonstrations by leaders	38	97	109	77	91
Talks and discussions by leaders	80	89	77	31	104

3. 4-H Club Leadership

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. Club Officers	90	101	107	93	85
No. adult project leaders	12	8	8	7	7
No. junior project leaders	3	5	4	5	3
No. result demonstrators	5	6	11	6	7
No. training meetings by specialists	0	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by dist. agents	0	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by agent	3	0	0	2	2
No. training meetings by members club dept.	0	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by others	0	0	0	0	0
Total attendance at leaders training meetings	8	0	0	5	18
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	4	2	4	5	2
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent	18	28	24	38	32
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	4	2	2	4	
No. demonstrations given by adult leaders	18	20	25	38	32
No. demonstrations given by junior leaders	4	8	6	9	6

B. Development of Leadership

When Mrs. P. W. Bartholomew joined the H. D. Club eleven years ago the agent recognized a person of sincere desire to learn and to become a part of the community, but a person who was timid, apologetic and lacking self confidence. At that time she had just moved from the city to a farm, off the highway and out of sight of any of her neighbors.

Perhaps loneliness as well as a desire to learn new ideas prompted her to walk the mile stretch of a muddy road bringing her youngest son and later an infant daughter and a pre-school son to meet the agent and attend the Lebanon H. D. Club. When asked to serve as project leader she agreed hesitantly, to team up with one of her fellow club members. She attended the training meetings and the contact with our extension specialists and with the other friendly leaders whom she met opened up a new world for her.

At that time her husband was still working away, getting home only for weekends and she was managing the farm with her three small sons. Getting up before her club to talk or assist with a demonstration was an entirely new experience for her. In her timidity she suffered through it because she felt that she needed the experience to enable her to develop as a better rounded

individual.

It has been a pleasure to watch her grow in self confidence, accepting the presidency of her club because "I need it and it will help me", she said; assisting with the fair, serving as treasurer of the county federation and learning some simple bookkeeping methods under her husbands direction in order to do a better job. Recently she said to her agent with pride shining in her eyes, "This is something else that I've learned through the club that I never thought I'd do. Why it wasn't long ago that I didn't even know how to write a check correctly." She unhesitatingly accepts responsibility and does well whatever she undertakes. She has backed her three sons in 4-H project work and now that her young daughter is an eager beginner in the 4-H Food Preparation project she and a near neighbor have volunteered their services to work with a group of six beginners in their community.

She and this same neighbor are both planning to attend the leaders' conference at Natural Bridge "So that we may get a better idea of what is expected of us as leaders", they say.

As the sons have grown up they have enrolled at V. F. I., one graduating in Chemical Engineering, now established in his profession, the second in his junior year.

When the family built their modern brick home nearer the highway a few years ago the younger son recognized this as an opportunity in his home grounds beautification project. Following the advise of Mr. E. S. Beecher, he developed the surroundings, according to plan which included building a fence and trellises as well as caring for the lawn, planting flowers, trees and shrubs. This year he entered district contest winning first in the district and second in the state. His activities this summer include building lawn furniture with his father's help in the garage workshop.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew are willing to serve on committees, will assist with transportation for 4-H members and will cooperate in any way that their services are needed, in church, school or extension activities.

It is the feeling of the agent that by recognizing ability and a willingness to participate and by providing opportunities for participation that the leadership of these individuals has been developed and that they have been enabled to use their talents for

greater usefulness in their community and in the county.

VII. FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

A. The Rice Family Carry Out Remodeling Program

The Millard Rice family are dairy and general farmers living in Midway district. The family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Rice, their three small children, Mr. Rice's mother and uncle.

The home, while comfortable in many respects had an extremely inconvenient kitchen where the family ate unless there were guests. There were two back porches, neither of which was glass enclosed. The one nearest the kitchen was used to prepare vegetables, for ironing and for other odd tasks. The home freezer was kept on the other which necessitated a trip through the living-dining room to reach. There was no place to wash up on the back porch. An unfinished closet was used for work clothes. The kitchen units were inconveniently located. There was practically no counter space, a kitchen cabinet and open shelves providing all the storage space available. The two Mrs. Rices complained that they could not work together comfortably because of crowded conditions. This with having small children around while preparing meals was very frustrating. Too, the lighting was outmoded and far from satisfactory.

When the home agent visited Mrs. Rice in 1958 to interest her in the improved lighting program she found the family interested not only in improved lighting, but in remodeling and modernizing her kitchen as well. After carefully studying the problems, the agent felt that the help of a specialist was needed. At her request, both Mr. Wheary and Miss Settle, housing specialists, visited the family. It was found that part of an existing wall could be removed between the pantry and the kitchen. The sink and refrigerator changed places and the washing machine was put on the back porch. A new range with separate oven and surface units was installed, wall cabinets and counter units built in and the result - a convenient U shaped kitchen with ample space for two homemakers to work together comfortably. Fluorescent lighting units were installed over counters and work centers. The new location for the sink was under a window which afforded an attractive view of the pasture land.

A retractable light was installed in the other end of the long narrow kitchen where a rock maple dinnette provided place for informal meals. An attractive color scheme of brown and yellow was carried throughout. The papered walls had an appropriate design of brown on beige.

Yellow formica counter tops complemented the tones which were found in the inlaid linoleum floor covering. The back porch was completely enclosed and converted to a utility room. Here was installed a lavatory for the convenience of the men coming in from the barn. Connections were also made for the washing machine.

The closet was finished complete with rods for hangers. Here, too, is located the home freezer, much more accessible to the meal preparation center. A formica topped breakfast table which the family formerly used provides a place in this well lighted area for the younger members of the family to do their homework or to enjoy their coloring books. When a new heating system was installed it was here that the heating unit was located.

The lighting program, which had started with the kitchen, expanded to include the entire house. Outside lighting included a lantern post light at the guest parking area and flood lamps to light the area between the house and the barn. The plans, started in the spring of 1958, were completed in the spring of 1959. Plans for improvements in lighting were under the direction of the extension agents and the power suppliers. An open house, held upon completion of this project, made it possible for around 40 families to see the improvements that had been made.

**B. Progress in Developing Good Public Relations**

The agent makes a sincere effort to maintain good relations with both the public and with her co-workers. She cooperates willingly in developing and carrying out a program designed to meet the needs of the county. Through frequent discussions and staff conferences it is possible to more closely coordinate a program of activities. She makes an effort to inform the public as to the scope of extension activities and to acquaint them with services available. This includes elected representatives, all of whom she is personally acquainted.

An effort is made to maintain an orderly friendly atmosphere in the office where callers may feel welcome and at ease. Requests for assistance are acknowledged promptly and courteously.

She recognizes the contributions that can be made by trained personnel from nearby power suppliers. These people have cooperated gladly in carrying out a more effective program.

She maintains active membership in the Keysville Woman's Club.

but assists with programs and special events in other organizations within the county.

The agent cooperates willingly with members of the County Health Department and has recently assisted in securing volunteers from among her club members to make up an instructors class in home nursing.

She has for the past two years served as co-chairman of the Heart Fund and as such has received willing cooperation from both 4-H and home demonstration club members and others as solicitors.

C. Professional Improvement

The agent has endeavored to keep abreast of her profession by maintaining active membership in professional organizations and by attendance of meetings related to same. She maintains membership in state and national Home Economics Association, Home Demonstration Agents Association and Epsilon Sigma Phi.

She has attempted to keep herself informed by reading professional magazines and periodicals. She has participated in workshops on Communications, Filing and Office Management, the High Point Furniture Workshop and Know Your Sewing Machine.

She was privileged to attend the National Home Demonstration Agents' Association.

VIII. THE LOOK AHEAD

In looking back over the past year's program the agent feels that progress has been made in helping families to raise their standards in creating more attractive and more satisfying homes and in using to better advantage the possessions that they already owned. Opportunities have been provided for leadership and progress has been observed in developing and using local leaders. The agent has been able to visit some of the homes which she previously had not visited, thus providing additional opportunities for extension to be of service. As always an evaluation leaves one with the feeling that while much has been accomplished that there are many more opportunities awaiting a new year.

With the help of a half time assistant the agent feels that it will be possible to carry out a more successful program in 1960.

1. More time will be spent with individual families on Farm and Home Management problems.
2. There will be more opportunity to follow-up on work previously started and in planning and developing long time objectives.
3. Special individual needs will be approached through special interest groups in so far as time will permit.
4. A continued effort will be made to secure and train leaders, especially for 4-H project work.
5. Efforts will be continued to further the work of the Improved Home Lighting and Nutrition Committees in order to reach additional families.