

model for bathroom space. (5) Location of sink and bathroom and (6) Installation and care of a pressure water system.

Each year for the past five years water systems surveys have been made to show progress of the water system program. A survey of total number of water systems in the county was made this year. This report shows that there are 96 water systems in Nottoway County. Eighty two of these are complete running water systems.

APPRAISAL OF YEARS WORK

The Extension Program has contributed to better homemaking, better rural living and improved people this year. Emphasis was placed on home improvement in H. D. and 4-H clubs during the year. This helped to encourage all members of the family to do their share in making the homes more comfortable and attractive. Many accomplishments were also made through project work in clothing, gardening, poultry, electricity and nutrition. More men, women and children took a greater interest in the program and greater accomplishments were apparent as a result. Better family understanding and cooperation was also realized.

As a result of the extension program conducted during the year over ninety percent of the Negro families in the county are now enjoying a higher standard of living.

There is still a great need for improvement in the social and recreational activities in the county. More work needs to be done on the clothing and food problems in the rural areas. In the light of last year's progress more emphasis should be placed on training leaders in order to do a bigger and better job.

5

Three of the club members of Nottoway served as judges for the yard and garden contests held by Prospect Community Club.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT OF EXTENSION WORK

In cooperation with The State Educational Program on Pressure Water Systems, much effort has been put forth to aid in the program. This program was continued for the third year and prior to the organization of a Running Water Committee, the work was stressed by the agent and leaders in all home demonstration club meetings and other meetings in the county.

Ten years ago the largest percent of rural Nottoway County received their first electricity for the first time. This brought rural Nottoway an opportunity to own many modern conveniences that were not possible before. The county Planning committee realized the need for an educational program for running water after discussing the problems that would have to be solved before rural families could consider running water in the rural homes. These problems included source of water, financial problems, conditions of homes, arrangement and room space available, and to create desires for water under pressure.

Points stressed on this subject in various meetings, through home visits, tours, news articles, circular letters, bulletins and discussions were as follows: (1) The value of pressure water systems, such as labor saving, provides convenience, improves health conditions and increase farm production and efficiency, (2) Information on installation costs and health requirements, (3) Survey your source of water and make sure to have sufficient amount for all uses. (4) Plan and re-

an average of 250 quarts of fruits, vegetables and meats for her family. With this food supply she able to feed her family of four very easily.

Mrs. Doswell stated that "Extension work means that I serve my family better balanced meals, I save money by making and remaking clothing, I have a year round garden and I understand more about home and yard improvement."

MOST OUTSTANDING CLUB

The Nottoway Home Demonstration Club is the most outstanding club in the county. The club has 45 members enrolled with an average monthly attendance of 24 members. The club held 12 regular meetings during the past year and two call meetings to make plans for special activities. The leaders and members gave 18 demonstrations in meetings and 16 to non-club members and neighbors, lead 14 discussions and assisted the agent with 10 demonstrations during the year.

This year was the first time in five years that Nottoway club did not win first prize on educational exhibits at Achievement Day Program.

In May the Nottoway club chartered a bus, taking forty women to the District H. D. Committee Meeting in South Hill, Virginia. The club was represented at all County Advisory Board Meetings, Planning Meeting, Achievement Day, Farmer's Conference, National H. D. Week Celebration and training meetings.

Last year the club gave four baskets of food to needy families at Christmas time. They are planning to give five baskets to needy families this Christmas.

she joined in 1950 when she was married and moved to the community with her husband. Prior to that time she was a member of the Cellar Creek Community 4-H Club for which she served as president and junior leader.

Mr. and Mrs. Doswell work together to obtain better result in improving the home and the farm. Mrs. Doswell can count on her husband to assist with improving the home and the yard. Flowers and shrubbery were planted in the yard in early spring of this year. They share the duties of painting the home and making repairs.

The Doswells have served as Poultry Flock Demonstrators for the past three years and received highest score in the county for the past two years. They were the first demonstrators in the county to raise the Piamentier strand of the laying Rhode Island Reds as recommended by Mr. A. L. Dean, Associate Extension Poultryman, Blacksburg, Virginia. From the 26 layers Mrs. Doswell reported that she gets an average of 18 eggs per day.

While the Doswells are making preparation to build their own home they live with Mr. Doswell's father and mother who both needs special attention because of ill health. Mr. Doswell operates his father's farm of 60 acres, and his own two small farms of 36 acres. His chief crops are tobacco, corn, wheat and grass. With his tractor and other machinery and equipment, Mr. Doswell is able to do most of the work himself until harvest time, then he is able to get the work done through the assistance of his wife and hired help.

To help furnish the family food supply they have 4 hogs, two cows, 50 chickens and one acre of garden. Each year Mrs. Doswell cans an

Mrs. Knight started taking in sewing to make extra money. She has helped many of the H. D. women with their sewing problems this year. She makes most of her own clothes. Along with making her work and dress clothes, she made a suit and a coat for herself this spring.

For the past five years Mrs. Knight has served as chairman of the County Better Housing Committee, for which she also serves as a result demonstrator. She has made talks in churches, schools and county wide meetings to encourage rural people to improve their housing situation.

From 1952-1954 Mrs. Knight served as president of the District H. D. Committee Meeting. In the 1955 meeting Mrs. Knight served as leader for panel discussion on "How We Can Expan Our Program."

On November 15, 1955 a Beef Cutting Demonstration was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Knight, with 28 farmers and homemakers attending. The demonstration was given by Mr. M. G. Harding, Local Farm Agent Lunenburg County.

OUTSTANDING FAMILY

The Freeman Doswell family of Prospect Community which is located at Route 1, Blackstone, Virginia has benefitted greatly from the Extension Program. Mr. and Mrs. Doswell and their two small children live with his parents, where he works his father's farm along with his own. The Doswells are members of the Prospect Community Club and the County Advisory Board. Mrs. Doswell is a member of the County H. D. Planning Committee, and serves as adult and 4-H leader in her community. Mrs. Doswell has held the office of Vice President and secretary-treasurer of the Prospect Community Club since

OUTSTANDING LEADER

Mrs. L. A. Knight, member of the Nottoway H. D. club has contributed greatly to the Extension Program in the county as well as in her community. During the past year Mrs. Knight served as secretary of her H. D. club, also program development and project leader of the H. H. club. Mrs. Knight has served in the leadership capacity with H. D. and 4-H clubs for 12 years. Her leadership program is always loaded for she enjoys serving in this capacity.

Mrs. Knight and her husband lives near Nottoway on a farm where they raise their own garden, livestock and poultry.

Realizing advantages of a comfortable home, through the information received through extension activities, the Knights are continuously planning and improving their home. They have a complete running water system in their home and a comfortable living room, dining room and kitchen, with most electrical conveniences. With five bedrooms in the home, three are used by teachers, who work at the nearby high school.

Since purchasing a home freezer two years ago Mrs. Knight freezes over 800 pounds of food each year. She reported that she has canned over 150 quarts of food this year to supplement the foods that were frozen.

Being a good planner and executor in her own home prompted Mrs. Knight to try to help others by serving as leader. Her own experience gave her an opportunity to increase her confidence on selling others on extension ideas.

For five years Mrs. Knight has served as a clothing project leader and result demonstrator. After learning to sew in the H. D. club

| Growth of 4-H Project Leadership 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| No. club officers | 84 | 84 | 84 | 84 | 84 |
| No. adult project leaders | 65 | 65 | 56 | 103 | 108 |
| No. result demonstration | 0 | 10 | 10 | 44 | 44 |
| No. training meetings held by specialist | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| by agent | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| by dist. agent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| by club dept. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| by others | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total attendance at leader training meetings | 30 | 69 | 30 | 55 | 120 |
| No. 4-H leaders trained indiv. | 75 | 30 | 30 | 43 | 50 |
| No. club meetings held by leader without agent | 57 | 26 | 47 | 26 | 47 |
| No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted | 21 | 51 | 54 | 54 | 111 |
| No. demon. given by adult lead. | 57 | 26 | 20 | 54 | 90 |
| by junior leaders | 4 | 18 | 27 | 71 | 74 |
| Young Men and women's clubs | | | | | |
| No. club officers | 0 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 15 |
| No. leaders | 0 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 18 |

demonstrations, led discussions, helped arrange exhibits, helped plan special programs, and did creditable work in reaching more people.

All leaders made a great contribution toward the advancement of extension work in Nettoway County. The adult and 4-H leaders assisted in 307 meetings with an attendance of 7,462.

180 discussions and talks by leaders.

235 demonstrations by leaders.

129 demonstrations were given with leaders assisting.

64 leaders served as result demonstrators.

| ③ HD Club Project Leadership | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| No. project leaders (sub. Mat.) | 88 | 89 | 86 | 89 | 89 |
| No. goal chairmen | 12 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| No. Program dev. leaders | 15 | 14 | 12 | 12 | 13 |
| No. result demonstrators | 14 | 14 | 15 | 50 | 44 |
| No. training meetings by sped. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| by dist. agent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| by agent | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| Attendance at training meeting | 24 | 42 | 38 | 66 | 288 |
| No. meetings without agent | 53 | 26 | 47 | 19 | 33 |
| No. meetings leaders assisted | 40 | 65 | 65 | 69 | 105 |
| Demonstrations by leaders | 49 | 62 | 65 | 54 | 71 |
| Talks and discussions by leaders | 4 | 16 | 65 | 25 | 89 |

year with 56 members attending. These meetings were held in December and June. These meetings were held to plan and carry out activities for the year, train leaders, provide recreation and evaluate progress made. Activities of the council included: National 4-H week activities Rural Life Sunday Program, Record Book Contest, County wide 4-H Picnic, and Achievement Day. Committees were appointed for all activities who did a splendid job of carrying out all plans.

LEADERSHIP

One hundred and fifty one women served as organizational, project and special interest leaders and result demonstrators during the year in adult work. There were 121 adult 4-H leaders and 35 junior leaders assisting with 4-H work during the year.

Seven training meetings were held for adult leaders, with a specialist assisting the agent in three of these meetings. Six training meetings were held for adult and junior 4-H leaders with 120 attending. Sixteen other 4-H leaders were trained individually.

The H. D. Club officers serving as organizational leaders assisted by executing plans for meetings and programs in their individual clubs. These leaders showed progress in their assistance of contacting members, obtaining meeting places, seeing that the meetings were held regularly and on time. They also helped plan activities for the regular monthly meetings to add interest.

Program development leaders rendered assistance by collecting information and suggestions for building a program to better meet the needs of the people in various communities. The project leaders gave

The board met in January to complete plans for the Annual Farmer's Conference. The speakers were selected and committees were appointed for the special program.

Eighteen members attended the county advisory board meeting in April 20, 1955 at Nottoway Virginia. At this meeting reports were made from committees of the county and State Farmers Conference. Plans were completed for the District Committee meeting and the county celebration of National H. D. Week. The delegates were also elected for the State Advisory Board meeting.

The fourth meeting was held on June 2, 1955 with 25 members present representing ten clubs. This meeting consisted of reports from the District Committee meeting, the National H. D. Week tea held by Nottoway County H. D. members. Plans were made for a county wide picnic and tours.

On August 31, 1955 the county advisory board met with the county H. D. committee to assist with planning the program for the new year. Reports were made by 4-H short course delegate, Flossie Carter, a 4-Her and Lynell Carter, 4-H member of Burkeville 4-H club gave a report on his trip to the Regional 4-H Camp held in Washington, D. C..

Through the sound planning and outstanding work of committees, all activities more successful for the entire year in comparison to previous years.

COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

The county 4-H council is composed of 84 officers and leaders of the 4-H clubs in the county. The council held ¹ meetings during the

and saw that the programs were carried out. The committed also helped support the 4-H program and saw that the county goals were carried out. In the April meeting the group selected the four delegates for the District meeting.

The county H. D. committed met August 31, 1955 to plan the program for the coming year. The program included purpose of meeting, county situation, discussion of problems and setting up objectives and project work for the new year. The program planned was as follows: Making children's clothing, Better diets, Home improvement, Money management, Farm and home safety and arts and crafts.

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

The County Advisory Board with a membership of 55 members held 5 meetings during the year, with total attendance of 68. These meetings were held to make and carry out plans for sponsoring county wide programs such as Farmer's Conference, National H. D. Week, Picnic, Achievement Day and to assist with other education activities, an Advisory Board meeting, State Farmers Conference, District H. D. Committee, and Live-at-Home Work.

The first advisory board meeting of the year was held December 8, 1954 at Nottoway, Virginia. Twelve members were present representing six clubs. Highlights of the meeting included report by the president of trip as delegate to State Advisory Board Meeting, report of Achievement Day and plans for the new year. At the end of the business session the group enjoyed a Christmas party with games, songs, exchanging gifts and refreshments were served.

seven young people are members of the H. D. community clubs in the county. During the year 65 young men and 116 young women were assisted through the extension program.

SCOPE OF WORK

| | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| No. HD Clubs or Groups | 15 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 |
| Membership | 265 | 267 | 267 | 260 | 267 |
| No. 4-H clubs | 14 | 16 | 16 | 14 | 13 |
| Membership | 372 | 433 | 433 | 370 | 410 |
| No. other families reached | 43 | 80 | 125 | 147 | 149 |
| No. of different families reached | 239 | 357 | 307 | 449 | 446 |
| No. community clubs | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Membership | 84 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 41 |

To increase scope of work 3 tours, and 5 county wide adult programs and 3 county wide 4-H programs were held in various communities, where many non-club families were invited to attend. Four-H and H. D. members and the agent visited families in communities to publicize the extension program. The program was also publicized in churches, schools and through radio announcements and the newspapers.

COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION COMMITTEE

The county H. D. committee is composed of 26 members, the presidents and other program development leaders of each of the 13 adult clubs. This committee met twice alone and twice with the advisory board during the year. In these meetings the group made plans, checked on progress

Wild Life Conference

Two members and one leader attended the Wild Life Conference at Virginia State College in August 1955.

National 4-H Week

Over 600 boys and girls, teachers and leaders were present to witness National 4-H Week celebration at a chapel assembly program at Luther H. Foster High School. This program, sponsored by the county 4-H council, was presented March 10, 1955. Twelve clubs in the county took part on program.

The program was planned to acquaint more boys and girls with the 4-H program in the county. The program was as follows: A panel on "Meaning of 4-H Week", 4-H Awards, the "State 4-H Short Course" and "State 4-H Wild Life Conference."

The Junior Council presented the "4-H Story" to the school to be placed in the library to acquaint more boys and girls with 4-H work. Four-H awards were presented to 1954 winners, and the state winners were announced. The A. G. Richardson Elementary School Choir participated on program also. The program was highlighted with the 4-H Candle Lighting Ceremony, which was very impressive.

The Burkeville and Morning Star 4-H clubs held National 4-H Week programs in their individual communities. Total attendance at these 2 programs was 121.

YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMENS WORK

Since there are no young adult clubs in the county, their age group was trained to serve as leaders of H. D. and 4-H clubs. Fifty

Rural Life Sunday

To have members become more active in religious work, and to encourage members to go to church and take part in the service were objectives of celebration Rural Life Sunday.

Committees were appointed at the Jr. Council meeting in December to make out plans for a county wide program.

One hundred twenty five 4-H members, leaders and others attended a county wide Rural Life Program on May 15, 1955 at Macedonia Baptist Church, Burkeville, Virginia.

A short program was rendered by members of five 4-H clubs in the county. The Pastor of the church, Rev. J. W. Megginson spoke to the 4-H ers on "The Power of Prayer."

This county wide service, representing the combine efforts of leaders, members, agent and church officials contributed greatly to the spiritual well being to all. Emphasizing the theme "Improving Family and Community Living", the program gave 4-H members an opportunity to think about home, community and world events in spiritual terms. Members were encouraged to identify themselves with an institution that stands for higher ideas. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers by 4-H members and leaders.

State 4-H Short Course

Six members and one leader attended the State 4-H Short Course at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia in June 1955. Excellent reports were made by these delegates on their return in community and county wide meetings.

Achievement Day Program. Winners were: Flossie Carter, Morning Star, 1st prize; Ruth Carter, Burkville 2nd and Joseph Coleman, Mt. Nebo, 3rd.

State Contest

In order to give members a chance to compete on a state wide basis and to improve 4-H club work, members participated in the state contest.

Five members took part in the contest and two members won prizes. Alphonsia Downs, Jr. of the Jennings Ordinary 4-H club was winner in the Home Garden Contest sponsored by Colonial Stores, Inc., who won a \$10.00 prize. Lynell Carter, a Burkeville 4-H member won a \$50.00 bond for outstanding work in his poultry project.

Because of outstanding 4-H achievements Lynell Carter also was selected as one of the delegates to attend the 4-H Regional Camp held in Washington, D. C. in August 1955. For the past six years he has been a member of the Burkeville 4-H club, where he has served two years as president of his club. He also served as secretary and reporter of his club, and is now serving as junior leader. He has completed eight projects.

For six years Lynell has also been an active Junior Council member, having served as president and reporter, and in December 1954 he was re-elected to the office of the president.

Lynell has attended three State 4-H Short Courses. For outstanding project work and keeping excellent records, he has won one county medal, two county prizes and two state prizes;

Poultry

As a means of increasing the family income and supplementing the family diet 4-H members enrolled in poultry brooding and rearing.

The objectives were set up to:

1. To learn to select a good poultry flock.
2. To learn proper care and management of chicks.
3. To develop appreciation for raising poultry.
4. To learn disease and parasite control.

Discussions were held in monthly meetings by leaders, members and the agent on assigned topics. Other methods of teaching used were result demonstrations, home visits, literature, exhibits and charts.

One hundred eighteen members enrolled with 92 completing. Eight hundred sixteen birds were raised through this project, 650 were sold and used at home, and 166 were kept for layers.

OTHER 4-H ACTIVITIES

Record Book Contest

The Junior Council sponsored a record book contest for the fifth year to improve 4-H club work, to create interest for better record keeping and to encourage all to keep their records. Members ~~are~~ completing their project with the best record books enters the state contest.

Each month the leader checked the members record books, and the agent checked 3 times during the year.

Two hundred fifty six members passed in their record books as a result of these efforts. Prizes for the best three books were awarded at the

group received training for their project work. Other methods used to train members included written material and result demonstrations.

One hundred ninety seven members enrolled with 152 completing.

171 rooms were improved through arrangement, accessories and care.

194 learned to make bed correctly.

134 girls made shoe bags.

124 selected good lamps.

112 lamps were made.

119 arranged cut-flowers.

95 grew plants for room.

140 made dresser scarf.

Garden

The 4-H boys selected the garden project in order to help produce some of the family's food supply.

The objectives of this project were:

1. To cut down on the cost of food.
2. To develop appreciation of the responsibility of farm and community life.
3. To improve the family food situation.
4. To learn how to grow vegetables.
5. To learn the value of a good garden.

The groups received training from leaders and the agent through demonstrations, discussions, circulars, written material and home visits. These efforts helped many to grow more vegetables. Reports revealed that 1,745 bushels of vegetables were grown by 4-H members.

- 127 hair care kits were made.
- 96 girls equipped shoe shine kits.
- 210 girls equipped skin care kits.
- 194 girls equipped kits for teeth care.
- 175 girls improved posture and voice.
- 337 garments were dry cleaned.

Home Improvement

Because of the great need for making the home more livable and attractive, the 4-H planning committee selected the home improvement project. Objectives were:

1. To improve the appearance of bedroom.
2. To make best use of furniture on hand.
3. To acquire skills in making simple furnishings.
4. To develop desire for more attractive bedroom.
5. To learn to arrange furniture attractively and conveniently.

The following project work was selected:

1. Plan an attractive bedroom.
2. Make bed and keep clothes in place provided for them.
3. Arrange furniture and accessories.
4. Make a shoe bag or rack.
5. Select good lamp for bed unit.
6. Make a lamp.
7. Use growing plants or arrange cut flowers.
8. Make a dresser scarf.

Through method demonstrations by members leaders and the agent the

4-H CLUB WORK

Looking your Best

This project was selected because 4-H members were eager to learn to look their best at all times.

The objectives set up included:

1. To encourage better appearance.
2. To promote self confidence.
3. To learn to care for clothing properly to save money.
4. To learn to use clothing and personal articles to best advantage.
5. To improve posture and voice.

The following project work was selected:

1. Rate yourself.
2. Care of your hair.
3. Care of your feet and shoes.
4. Care of your skin.
5. Care of your teeth and smile.
6. Improve posture and voice.
7. Hang up your clothes.
8. Dry clean washables.

One hundred seventy three girls enrolled in this project with 146 completing. These girls received training from leaders and the agent through demonstrations, circular letters, role playing, written material, exhibits meetings and home visits.

Outstanding accomplishments were:

165 girls rated themselves.

The Evans built a new home 4 years ago which has 4 rooms on the first floor. The second floor has not been completed, and the first floor rooms have not been finished. There is no closet space provided in the entire house. The family is in great need for more rooms to provide more privacy for the members.

On the farm the family raises a garden, corn, oats and rye. They own one cow, one pig, and 10 hens. Because of the lack of an agricultural agent, the farm side has not been thoroughly analyzed as yet.

The following goals have been set up by the family through assistance of the home agent:

1. Complete two rooms upstairs for children.
2. Sheet rock 3 outer walls down stairs.
3. Install wall and base cabinets in kitchen.
4. Make children's clothing.
5. Improve the yard.
6. Build closets in all bedrooms, china closet in dining room and book shelves in living room.
7. Wire the house.
8. Install running water.
9. Build 2 porches (front and back).
10. Increase family food supply.

Mrs. Evans is a member of the home demonstration club and five of the children are in the 4-H club.

No outstanding progress has been made, however the family hopes to begin their plans by the first of the year.

STATE ADVISORY BOARD

Mrs. Eva Scott of Piney Green Community attended the State Advisory Board meeting in Cumberland county on September 7, 8, 1955.

STATE FARMERS CONFERENCE

Twenty one men and women from Nottoway County attended the State Farmers Conference at Virginia State College on April 14, 1955.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT WORK

In the county advisory board meeting on April 20, 1955 the board recommended seven families for participation in Farm and Home Development work. Criteria used in recommending these families included; Farm family, preferably with children who own their home. Comparatively young families to represent all areas of the county was also a basic consideration. From this list of seven families the agent selected one family to begin with, the Clifton Evans Family.

Local leaders were acquainted with the farm and home development approach through home visits, club meetings and circular letters.

Personal calls were made to explain the plan to the Evans family, and on the first visit, they were interested in the farm and home development work. On the agents next visit to the Evans home the family was enrolled.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Evans live on Route 3, Blackstone, Virginia with their family of three boys and three girls. The oldest is a boy 15 years old and the youngest is a girl 6 years old. All of the children are in school. They live on a 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre farm, which they inherited 16 years ago when the Evans first married.

These exhibits were judged for prizes on quality of work, originality, neatness and educational value. Adult prizes were awarded as follows; three first prize winners were Mt. Zion, Union and Burkeville H. D. clubs; 2nd prize, prospect H. D. club; three third prizes to Nottoway, Jerusalem and Piney Green H. D. clubs.

Four-H winners: two first prizes to Mt. Nebo and Morning star 4-H clubs; 2nd prize, Hickory Grove; and third prize, Burkeville 4-H club. Four-H record book contest winners were 1st Flossie Carter, Morning Star; 2nd Ruth Carter, Burkeville; and 3rd Joseph Coleman, Mt. Nebo. Old recipe contest winners were: 1st Mrs. L. A. Knight, Nottoway; 2nd Mrs. Ola Jones, Nottoway, 3rd Mrs. Elmer Knight, Union.

Mrs. Bertha Williams won 1st prize for individual work in canning chairs.

The spelling contest winners were: 1st prize, Mrs. Frankie Fitzgerald, Nottoway, 2nd prize, Mrs. Ethna Hurtt, Mt. Zion, 3rd prize Mrs. Kathleen Jennings, Union.

The following program was presented : Devotionals were led by 4-H members; Walter C. Berryman, IFYE Delegate told the audience of his experiences in England and Wales; Lynell Carter of the Burkeville 4-H club reported on his trip to the 4-H Regional camp held in Washington, D. C. Mrs. L. A. Knight, Nottoway gave report from District H. D. committee meeting; a summary of years work was given by the agent; and awards and recognitions were made by Miss H. E. Ford, Assistant District Agent.

ANNUAL COUNTY FARMERS CONFERENCE

Two hundred and twenty five farmers, homemakers and leaders attended the Tenth Annual County Farmers Conference at Prospect Baptist Church, Blackstone, Virginia on March 24, 1955. This all day conference, sponsored by the County Advisory Board had as its theme "Better Health Through Better Nutrition".

Miss J. A. Peel, Local Home Agent in Charlotte County gave discussion and demonstration on "The Seven Basic Foods", Mr. I. C. Peoples, Virginia State College talked about "Poultry Production", and Mr. J. S. Higgenbottom, Hampton Institute discussed the "Year Round Garden". This conference is held annually, to present to the rural people information on some particular subjects to help solve farming and home-making problems.

ACHIEVEMENT DAY

The Annual Achievement Day program was held October 15, 1955 at the Dillard Street Community Center, Blackstone, Virginia. Two hundred H. D. and 4-H members, ministers, teachers, principals, agents and others were present to see exhibits and hear the program. Four 4-H clubs and seven H. D. clubs exhibited work completed this year.

Adult educational exhibits showed: Sewing equipment, Sewing finishes, Clothing construction, Care of refrigerator and stove, Closets and storage space, Christmas gift suggestions, Christmas gift wrappings and Old Recipes.

Four- 4 members exhibited work on good grooming, vegetable gardens, home improvement and the 4-H Regional Camp.

be used during the summer. Since it is just as important to preserve food as to raise a garden, the pantry feature was included in the tour.

The yards were judged for overall improvements made during the year.

Mrs. Eula Fitzgerald was winner in the Garden Contest. In the spring she grew 21 different vegetables in her garden, she had five vegetables growing in her fall and winter garden, Mrs. Fitzgerald canned 400 quarts of fruits and vegetables, dried 1 bushel of beans, stored 27 bushels white potatoes, 55 bushels of sweet potatoes. Mr. Fitzgerald built a pantry so that Mrs. Fitzgerald would have place for storing her canned goods properly. Each jar was labeled and arranged on the shelves very attractively.

Miss Lucinda Fowlkes was winner in the yard contest. Outstanding improvements made by Miss Fowlkes were: lawn seeded and fenced in, flowers planted, walk built, shrubbery planted, approved laundry area, yard cleaned and attractive, and attractive entrance to yard, Miss Fowlkes joined the club this year as a result of the contest.

The overall accomplishments were thus:

- 5 yards improved.
- 8 families with winter gardens.
- 2,335 quarts of fruits and vegetables canned.
- 243 bushels vegetables stored.
- 250 lbs. frozen food.
- 9 bu. dried food.
- 8 families pantry shelves for canned goods.
- 3 new pantries built.

6 families have complete running water.

3 families have water in kitchen.

3 home freezers purchased.

3 television sets purchased.

1 living room suit purchased.

8 homes painted.

12 yards improved.

The community club decided to sponsor a community garden and yard contest with money won in the state contest. The purpose of this contest was to increase the number of families raising year round gardens in order to have fresh vegetables all year, to make the community more attractive with more beautiful yards, and to increase interest in clubs. This contest was opened to non-club members as well as members.

Two tours were held, one in June and one in October. The tours were held to observe the spring and fall gardens and to judge entrants of contestants. Eighty one members and visitors took part in these tours. The judges for these tours were selected from among H. D. club

to have food for the family year round, it was felt that food preservation should be included since most families raised more vegetables than could

One church lawn graded.

One church moved baptising pool from front yard.

One church planted posts.

One church covered with asbestos siding.

Six churchyards cleaned.

Two churches cleaned inside.

Seven 4-H clubs and six H. D. clubs contributed twenty baskets of food to needy families in their communities. The Jennings Ordinary 4-H club and Prospect community club also gave personal gifts to patients at Piedmont Sanitorium. The objective of this was to help make Christmas merry for some unfortunate families, to promote better relationship between the clubs and the communities and to train the youth to be better citizens.

On April 29, 1955 16 H. D. leaders assisted the county health officers with Salk Polio Vaccine Clinic in Crewe and Blackstone. The Union and Hickory Grove 4-H clubs donated 280 lollipops for the clinic in Crewe.

Live-at-Home Work

Because of the continual need for improvement in Prospect Community, the live-at-home work was carried for the fourth year. This was the second consecutive year that Prospect Community won a prize in the state wide contest.

Outstanding accomplishments made by this community since entering the contest are:

The county committee invited the District meeting to Nottoway County for 1956.

National H. D. Week

Nottoway County H. D. clubs celebrated National H. D. Week with a tea on Friday May 6, 1955 at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Nottoway, Virginia. The refreshments were furnished by the H. D. clubs. A short program was presented which consisted of Dress Parade, Spelling Contest, Essay Contest, with subject "What H. D. Work Means to Me," A Household Hints Contest and a short talk by the agent on "The Meaning of National H. D. Week". Nine clubs were present to take part in the program.

The non-club members and the men learned more about H. D. activities as a result of this program. Men and women expressed their desire to work more closely with the Extension program after learning more of the advantages of the work.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

To encourage cooperation, to prove the advantages of working together, to reach more people, and to make the communities more attractive, each H. D. club selected a community project for 1955. These projects included church yard beautification, reupholstering pulpit furniture, cleaning church and church yard and improving the appearance of the church.

The following accomplishments were made:

One church pulpit furniture reupholstered.

Two church lawns seeded.

to encourage people to plan leisure time and to appreciate the value of recreation and to develop appreciation for the beauty of rural life.

These objectives were reached through workshops, method and result demonstrations. Literature was distributed among the members in meetings. One hundred fifty six families received the benefit from this work.

18 aluminum trays were made.

16 chairs canned.

15 glasses stitched.

120 textile painted articles.

Driving Lessons

This project was not carried out because time was not available to collect enough information to carry through.

OUTSTANDING HDC COMMUNITY PROJECTS

District Home Demonstration Committee

Forty H. D. Women from Nottoway County attended the District H. D. Committee meeting in South Hill, Virginia on May , 1955. Nottoway County was represented with 4 delegates at this meeting.

Mrs. L. A. Knight, Nottoway member, who served as president of this committee for two years served as chairman of the discussion committee on "How We May Expand Our Program".

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(b) To teach latest methods of food preservation.

(c) To help families plan for and provide the food needed for food sustenance.

Twelve food preservation leaders were trained on April 15, 1955 at the Community Center in Blackstone, Virginia. Miss Mary. L. Thompson, Associate Food and Nutrition Specialist of Blacksburg, Virginia trained these leaders in an all day meeting. Information received by these leaders included:

1. The steps and proper method of canning vegetables and meats.
2. The proper method of freezing vegetables and meats.
3. Methods of preparing main dishes for freezing.
4. Freezing containers.

The leaders received written material to use in their individual club meetings. Eight demonstrations were given by leaders in club meetings. Three hundred twenty canning and freezing pamphlets were distributed among the members. Reports revealed that:

1,575 pounds of foods were frozen.

12,694 quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meats canned.

742 prepared dishes were frozen.

184 pounds dried food stored.

6 pressure cookers purchased.

3 home freezers purchased.

Rural Arts

To make available to interested families the opportunity of improvements in arts and crafts was the overall objective. Other objectives were to develop desirable social relationships and cultural values.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Refinishing and Reupholstering Furniture

The planning committee felt that many homes could be made more attractive and comfortable by getting the entire family to cooperate together to make maximum progress. The following objectives were set up:

1. To create a desire for more attractive homes.
2. To encourage families to use what they have to save extra buying.
3. To teach families how to refinish and reupholster furniture.

Work was planned and carried out in refinishing and reupholstering furniture. A furniture workshop was held on April 18th, 19th and 20th where 25 men and women attended, representing three clubs. Four chairs were reupholstered and one table was refinished at this workshop. The following work was reported as a result:

- 12 chairs reupholstered.
- 1 sofa reupholstered.
- 6 dining room chairs refinished.
- 4 tables refinished.
- 1 buffet refinished.

Food Preservation

Because food costs remains high and many rural families raise gardens with more vegetables than is necessary in the summer, need was felt for preserving some of this food.

Therefore this project was selected to:

- (a) Promote better nutrition.

Two hundred eighteen women in 12 clubs were trained in selecting base and wall cabinets for the kitchen. Leaders and the agent gave demonstrations and discussions in the meeting during the month of November.

As a result of the housing program in the county the following results were made and reported:

18 families built bathroom closets.

164 women sectioned dresser drawers.

125 women made provisions for cleaning equipment on first and second floor.

14 homes covered with asbestos siding.

8 new homes built.

16 families improved closets for children's use.

21 families added shelves in closets.

42 families made book shelves.

14 families built pantries.

125 families made housing repairs.

111 kitchens painted.

9 water systems installed.

4 sinks installed.

129 kitchens arranged.

75 kitchen linoleums installed.

12 kitchen storage installed, 1 built.

5 wardrobes purchased.

2 chest of drawers purchased.

29 homes installed screens.

7 homes were remodeled and 16 homes painted.

4. To guide families to spend their money to the best advantage.
5. To improve the kitchens.
6. To improve home storage space.
7. To encourage sound planning for remodeling.
8. To teach the value and procedures of housing repairs.

This information was acquired through leader training meetings, club meetings, method and result demonstrations, tours, exhibits, discussions, and written material.

On April 27, 1955 Miss Mary B. Settle, House Improvement Specialist trained eight housing leaders. These leaders were trained in house remodeling, repairs, kitchen improvement and closet space. The leaders also received demonstration material and written material to aid them with this work in their club meetings. Eight other leaders were trained by the agent.

Fifty five demonstrations and 65 discussions were given by the leader and the agent in the club meetings on house repairs, house remodeling and kitchen arrangement. Two hundred and fifty four women attended exhibits and tours to observe procedures and improvements made.

The leaders and the agent assisted the members through discussions, pictures and demonstrations on Planning and Improving Storage Space in the home. Outstanding points brought out were: (1) location of storage for convenience; (2) divide space by shelves, drawer partitions, to prevent wasted space; (3) design closet so that items can be seen and reached with minimum effort. Two hundred and fifty contacts were made with this project.

The results reported by women were very encouraging. One hundred and eighty families were assisted directly with buying refrigerators, 149 with buying electric stoves, 139 women reported improvements in caring for these appliances. Eight refrigerators were reported purchased and 4 electric stoves were purchased.

Housing*

There is still a great need for farm families to improve their living conditions in the county. Although many improvements had been made in previous years, housing continues to be inadequate for getting best results for money spent. In both the old and new homes there was obviously a great need for improvement in the kitchen and utility areas, the storage space, complete water systems and housing repairs. With this in mind the following housing program was planned:

1. Remodeling your home.
2. Housing repairs - care and repair of doors, windows, floors, steps, porches, walls and screens.
3. Improving closet space.
4. Kitchen arrangement and colors.
5. Purchase and build kitchen cabinets.

The following objectives were set up for the housing project:

1. To create a desire for more attractive, comfortable and convenient rural homes for better living.
2. To influence homemakers to use what they have to the best advantage.
3. To help families plan for and provide the housing needed for better living.

exhibit their garments by participating in a fashion show.

Since these demonstrations were given, 149 women have reported and exhibited 324 articles of clothing that were made for themselves and the children.

Home Management (Electrical Appliances)

Many rural families reported problems in home management and requested assistance in this subject. More families have refrigerators and electric stoves for the first time, and wanted to know how to use them for maximum results.

Since the refrigerator and stove are expensive household equipment the women wanted to know the best methods to caring for them. Sometimes it is very difficult to get service when repairs are needed. Other objectives set up were:

1. To reduce cost of living by proper selection, care and use.
2. To develop a skill to use and care for electrical appliances.
3. To obtain maximum service from electrical appliances.

Through method and result demonstrations, written material, charts, discussions, tours, and exhibits training was given leaders, 250 home demonstration members and non-members. Three leader training meetings were held and 24 leaders assisted with this project. Information given on this subject included the following subjects:

1. How to select and care for a refrigerator.
2. How to select and care for an electric stove.
3. How to get maximum service from refrigerator.
4. How to get maximum service from electric stove.

high cost of ready made garments, the women requested help for more instruction on making clothing for themselves and children's clothing.

● The objectives set up for clothing construction were:

1. To develop skills in sewing in order to make sewing more enjoyable.
2. To learn how to select styles and color for more individuality in wardrobe.
3. To encourage sewing to help reduce the cost of living by stretching the clothing dollar.
4. To learn to use the guide sheet and follow directions on patterns, in order to make more professional looking garments.
5. To make use of leisure time and to make articles that could be used for promoting and encouraging better living.

To reach these objectives work was planned in selecting patterns and fabrics; cutting, basting and fitting; stitching and finishes.

Twelve clothing leaders were trained during the month of January by the agent, to help women with cutting and constructing garments.

Training was given through method demonstrations by the agent and leaders in club meetings and small work groups. The women also observed the sewing done by the 12 result demonstrators in the county. Written material was given to members and leaders. Two workshops were held on making cotton dress.

Forty two demonstrations were given in all 12 of the home demonstration clubs to 179 women on the different steps in clothing construction. At the close of this project all the women were able to

There is still a great need for improvement in the social and recreational activities of the county. There are 26 churches in the county which should provide sufficient religious emphasis and during the year some efforts were made by some of the churches to provide wholesome recreational activities with the youth. There are 10 elementary schools in the county and one consolidated high school. Two of the elementary schools in the county are consolidated. Having to ride the bus for a good distance, many children are very late getting home from school, therefore many 4-H meetings are held at night and on Saturdays, since the 4-H clubs are not allowed to meet in the schools.

The average family consists of 5 to 7 members and with a limited income it is often extremely difficult to meet the family needs. The income is usually spent for food, housing, clothing, health, and a few other necessities which help to make life more comfortable. Realizing that there is a great need for improvement in family living conditions, in the county it was the request of the people for more work on clothing, home improvement, home management, garden, poultry, foods, electric and recreation. The long time goals set up by the county home improvement, family clothing and reaching more people.

ADULT PROJECT WORK

Clothing:

The women realized the continued need for assistance in clothing construction. Many families in the county have been forced to cut their clothing dollar in order to live within their means. Because of the

THE COUNTY SITUATION

Nottoway County has a total area of 308 square miles, 3.41 of this square miles are located in the three municipal sections of the county. According to the 1950 census the total non-white population in the county is 6,793. The 1954 census shows that there are 426 Negro farm operators with 361 farm homes in the county. During the past year there were 12 adult clubs and 13 4-H clubs.

Nottoway county is located in the Piedmont area of Virginia, about 50 miles south of Richmond. There are 3 small towns in the county: Crewe, Burkeville and Blackstone.

Most of the rural families earn their living by farming with tobacco as the main crop. Many family members work away from home to help supplement the family income, at mills, construction work, transportation, laundry and dry cleaning, public work, and small manufacturing plants. These jobs have helped to increase the family income for better living opportunities in many instances. By the closing of Camp Pickett, many of the women have not been able to find jobs away from home. Because of the decrease in job opportunities, there has been an increase in club membership and in the use of available resources to the best advantage.

Although Nottoway county is outstanding with railroads and the Greyhound bus runs on the two main highways there is still a problem for many of the ladies to get to meetings.

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VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

Home Demonstration Work - 1955

AGENT Ora J. Latham

NOTTOWAY COUNTY

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Annual Report

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service



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1955

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county