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# VIRGINIA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Franklin

COUNTY

1950

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III. Contribution to Better Family Living.

Home demonstration clubs now in the county number 23. This past year, the women had six demonstrations on Clothing using the House Dress Unit, Health and Good Grooming, and Restyling Hats; two demonstrations on house furnishing using Floor Finishes and Window Treatment and one demonstration on Handicraft.

The women have derived a great deal of benefit from the work dress unit. They learned quite a great deal in construction, which carried over into their family sewing. 105 dresses, aprons, and kitchen jackets were made. The wind up of this unit was Health and Good Grooming; not only health of the club women, but health of the whole family. The purpose of this unit was to teach the women to look for designs for work clothes that were easy to work in, easy to make, and easy to launder.

The two demonstrations on house furnishings were a great help to the women in new homes and also in remodeling their old homes. Samples of flooring all finished were shown the women so they could see the finished product. Finishes that would stand hard wear and be easy to keep were recommended to the women. In this demonstration, 55 have refinished their floors and many others will use recommended practices when their floors are in need of refinishing.

79 made new draperies after that demonstration was given.

In all of the demonstration, the simplest, best, and easiest to care for methods were used. Every woman seems to be so busy that all time saving methods were used in every demonstration.

Cookies and punch were used in the Simple Refreshment demonstration as easy to make and simple to serve.

To add to Better Family Living, the A-H members contributed their share also with their project work. Those in Clothing work learned at first to use needle and thread, then to make simple articles. Older members learned to cut and sew garments so they could make their own and help other members of the family. Small ones were taught to sew on buttons and to keep their buttons sewed on their clothing.

In food work, the girls learned to plan, prepare, and serve meals. The smaller girls learned to make bread and prepare simple dishes. They also learned to set the table and wash the dishes.

This past summer, 42 girls prepared and served 1286 meals. El made bread 779 times.

In a special garden contest, 5 girls grew gardens. These were the family gardens. Two of these girls had 30 different vegetables each in their spring gardens. They had new vegetables which they had never grown before so had to learn to cook and eat them. One girl had lettuce early and lettuce real late, something she had never done before. She not only fed their family of four, but kept her brother and wife, who live in the city 35 miles away supplied with fresh vegetables. Another girl raised cauliflower and egg plant for the man whose farm they manage. She had fair success with these, but profited by her mistakes and said she could do better another year.

The purpose of this garden contest was to teach the girls to raise and eat more vegetables and most of all to have a fall garden. Three of the five girls had excellent fall gardens and were very proud of their efforts.

IV. Adult.

A. Project Work.

1. Clothing.

Four demonstrations were given in this House Dress Unit; Selecting the Pattern of the dress; Adjusting

Pattern and Cutting Dress; Constructing and Fitting Dress; Finishes for Dress. The purpose of this unit was to teach the women the importance of proper clothing to wear when doing their work at home. The clothes should be simple to make, easy to wear, and easy to wash and iron.

The U.S.D.A. bulletin on Work Dresses and Aprons was used. Most of the women followed the construction directions carefully and were very pleased with their results. One said, "It takes longer to make the dress, but I have worn mine all summer and there has not been a rip in any seam. I feel that it has fully paid me for the trouble I took."

In all, 105 dresses, aprons and kitchen jackets were made. The majority of the garments were dresses and in all but five cases were made of feed bags.

Those who did not need a new dress this summer are keeping the material and say their next dresses will be one of the recommended styles.

Health and Good Grooming followed at the close of the unit. The women were especially interested in Health and Posture. They had never thought of Posture in regard to health or good grooming either one. The women surprised the agent by responding so well when asked to try out their posture and see if it needed correcting and in trying out the correct way to stoop. We worked especially on all of the younger members of the clubs. Some of the older ones felt that they were too stiff to try much stooping. The point was stressed that fine clothes were not a sign of good grooming.

The last demonstration in clothing was Restyling Hats. The women enjoyed this demonstration more than any other they have had in the opinion of the agents; and they have done some excellent work with their hats. This

was a late demonstration in the fall, but 41 reported they had cleaned and restyled their hats. The women were delighted with the cleaning of the felt hats even if they did not need blocking. They learned how to clean the felt of all dust which brightened the hat up considerably. They learned how to sew ribbons on hats and also how to fasten feathers or bows on. They were very proud to come to the next club meeting and tell how many compliments they had received on their hats.

2. House Furnishings.

Two demonstrations were given in this subject. Floors and Floor Finishes and Window Treatment. The best and easiest way to refinish, not the cheapest, was given in the demonstration. Each leader secured short pieces of flooring, the agents secured samples of floor finishing material for them and when they had the demonstration in their clubs they had the finished samples to show.

In one community, a church floor and several floors in a home had been finished by the methods recommended some time before the demonstration so the women had these as an example.

One of the hardware stores in town stocked the material to refinish the floors. He said he had had requests for it for some time. A woman from one of the clubs is a clerk in this store and tries to stock things that are recommended at the club. 35 women reported that they had refinished their floors by methods recommended. Five of these were in new homes.

3. Simple Refreshments.

Too many of the club women serve refreshments that are too elaborate and some serve foods that are entirely

unsuitable. Simple refreshments was a demonstration asked for by the club members. When the leaders meeting was held, a tea punch using fruit juices with the tea was used, several different kinds of sandwiches and cookies, and many other suggestions were given. The agents were trying to steer the women away from heavy food like big pieces of cake and pie with whipped cream. The women often complained after being served refreshments at the club that they did not want to go home and fix supper for the rest of the family. Since the demonstration, some women have made their refreshments simple, but others have refused to depart from the heaped up plate.

At Achievement Day when Union Hall Club acted as hostess and served refreshments, they used the cookies recipes given them and had home made cookies with punch.

B. Other Activities.

1. Federation Goal.

Housing was the Federation Goal chosen for this year with stress put on keeping the house in repair. A chairman was chosen for the county with co-chairman in each club. In January, a meeting of all these was held when the Housing Specialist met with them and gave suggestions on things that could be done.

At the close of the year, reports showed the following accomplishments: Outside, painted 9 houses, 4 new steps, 3 screened porches, 2 painted porch floors, 6 painted roofs, 6 repaired porch. Inside, 23 painted rooms, 11 papered rooms, 1 cut new door, 2 new closets, 2 remodeled kitchens, 2 new rugs, 1 plasterboarded

room, 6 painted chairs, 3 painted dressers, 1 put tile on floor and wall of bath room.

4 installed water, 10 installed bath rooms, 4 bought home freezers, 5 hot water heaters, 4 refrigerators, 1 hot plate, 5 vacuum cleaners, 8 ranges, 3 churns, 2 coffee pots, 5 mixers, 1 fan, 2 irons, 1 radio.

5 leveled front lawn and seeded grass, 2 set new shrubery, 3 reset shrubery, 3 cut ugly trees, 1 painted yard fence, 1 built cement walk.

The goal was to improve the house inside and house and surroundings outside.

2. Donations by Clubs.

Clubs made donations to March of Dimes \$20.50, Cancer \$67.72, Pennies for Friendship \$8.00. About half of the clubs contributed to Red Cross. 18 clubs made U. N. Flags and presented them with a program, to a school, church, or civic club. 16 were made by H. D. clubs and 2 by A-H clubs.

All clubs this year paid their state Federation dues, and their county dues. Last year the clubs voted to raise money to make a contribution to the new hospital which was to be built. Each club was to donate as they felt their treasury could stand. To date 6 clubs have paid into the county treasurer \$275.00. Some gave \$100 and others gave only \$2.00. The new hospital is started now so as soon as all clubs have paid in, the committee will decide on a piece of equipment they want to purchase and will turn their money over to the hospital board with instructions about what they wish it used for.

V. A-H Club.

A. Project Work.

1. So You Like to Sew.

Two hundred and seventy-four girls enrolled in this project during the winter months with 238 completing.

Demonstrations were given on equipping sewing box, making needle cases, wrist pin cushions, baby's bib, apron, laundry bag, lapel pens, stuffed toys, guest or kitchen towels, handkerchief, and broomstick skirts. Each of the topics were not studied by all clubs as some girls were able to make more and harder articles.

One hundred and thirty-one girls made needle cases, 43 made baby's bibs, 83 members made aprons, 15 made laundry bags, 33 made stuffed toys, 13 made guest towels, 87 made kitchen towels, 12 made broomstick skirts, 74 made handkerchiefs, and 127 members made wrist pin cushions.

Two hundred and fifteen girls brought the articles they made to the May club meeting. These articles were judged and blue, red, and white ribbons were given for the best articles in each group. The blue ribbons were then entered for county competition at the county fair.

In this project, the girls learned to cut by a pattern and by measurements, and to choose and combine colors. The first year girls learned to use a needle and thimble, to baste before sewing, and to cut by patterns. The girls also learned to stuff toys and pincushions tight, embroider simple designs on towels, and to cut by drawing a thread.

2. Make or Remake.

Forty-two girls enrolled in this project with seventeen completing. Sixteen of these girls made 53 new garments for themselves. The total cost was \$91.36 with an average of \$1.73 per garment. Four girls made 26 new garments for others for \$52.57 with \$2.01 being the average cost per garment. Four members remodeled for themselves 22 garments at an average of 13 cents per garment.

Patricia Ann Tucker of the Rocky Mount Senior Club was county, area, and district winner in the Clothing Achievement contest. She made a total of 55 garments. Her brown two piece dress won blue ribbon at the county fair. She also entered her brown dress in the clothing achievement contest at the Lynchburg Farm Show and won a blue ribbon. Patricia Ann made 8 children's garments with the average cost being 5 cents per garment as she cut the garments from scraps of material.

The girls in this unit learned to fit a pattern, cut a garment, and sew on the machine.

3. Looking Your Best.

Four hundred and forty-seven members enrolled in this project with 249 completing. Ten clubs were enrolled in this project. Members studied improving care of feet, teeth, hands, posture, hair, and voice. Shoe shine kits, and quick repair kits were provided by thirty-six of the members.

This project enabled the girls to learn more about personality, manners, appearance, and behavior.

4. Food For Pep.

Nineteen members enrolled in this project with seventeen completing. Sixteen members kept a record of meals they ate in fall, thirteen in the winter, and sixteen in the spring. Nineteen members learned the basic food groups and why we need to eat some food from each group every day.

16 members made 63 milk drinks for their family. Nineteen girls learned to wash dishes correctly by washing dishes correctly a total of 297 times. Nineteen girls learned to set the table correctly by setting it correctly 288 times. Eighteen girls planned, prepared, and packed their

own lunch 67 times. Nineteen girls learned to eat 41 new foods.

In this project, the girls have become more attentive to the kinds of food to eat and why eat certain foods. They are interested in foods and by taking this project can study foods without actually preparing food at meetings.

5. Food Preparation.

Fifty-eight girls enrolled in this project with 42 completing. Members planned the family dinner 1286 times, 42 members planned and served their school lunch 406 times. Four girls helped plan, prepare and serve 3 club meals. 42 girls set the table 189 times, made cake 104 times, made cookies 222 times, made milk dish 462 times, made a salad 364 times, and cooked a vegetable 471 times.

Bonnie Peters of the Boones Mill Senior Club entered the Food Preparation contest. Her records and demonstration on custard making won her 1st place honors in district. She and her family have greatly benefited by her interest and capability in planning, preparing, and serving their family meals.

Demonstrations were given in this project on making baked and boiled custard, eggs in a variety of ways, salads, vegetables, and cookies. Some of the older girls who had taken the project before, gave demonstrations serving as junior leaders.

6. Bread.

Ninety members enrolled in this project with 81 completing. Members made biscuits 415 times, corn bread 289 times, muffins 60 times, griddle cakes 5 times, and sally lunn 10 times.

Tatum Newbill of the Rocky Mount Senior Club was first place winner in the district Dairy Foods contest. She also made biscuits which won a blue ribbon for her at the county fair.

At the last meeting of this project, 5 members gave demonstrations to their groups, and 52 members made exhibits. These exhibits were judged by the club members using score cards as guides to judging.

7. Food Preservation.

Seventeen members enrolled in food preservation with sixteen completing. Members canned alone 5354 jars, and helped to can 3216 jars. 273 packages were prepared for freezing by the girls who helped to prepare 302 other packages. Fifteen girls helped plan the amount of tomatoes for their family need. 12 members planned all the food preservation need for their family.

Three girls entered the Sears, Roebuck Canning contest. These girls exhibited five pints of vegetables which were taken to Sears Roebuck Store in Danville. Edith Chitwood was third place winner in the area contest composed of Pittsylvania, Henry, Patrick, Halifax, and Franklin.

Sixty-seven girls exhibited tomatoes, tomato juice, string beans, beets, squash, peaches, cherries, blackberries, apples, and corn at the county fair and Lynchburg Farm Show. Seven of these took blue ribbons at the Lynchburg Farm Show.

8. Garden.

Six girls enrolled in the Sears, Roebuck Garden contest with five completing. Each girl planned and raised a spring and fall garden. They planted 10 or more vegetables and canned all that was not used by their

families. The girls were visited four times by the agents and visited again in the spring and fall by Mr. F. H. Scott, Assistant Vegetable Specialist, and the agents to score the gardens. These gardens were valued at \$934.62.

Ina Dean Mullins of the Rocky Mount Senior Club was first place winner in the county and area Sears contest winning \$34.00. She raised 30 different vegetables in her spring garden with varieties in root, fruit, and leafy selections. Her average score for spring and fall gardens was 93. The second average score was 92½ for Peggy Ingram.

Gardening has given these girls a feeling of responsibility. They have learned how to select seeds for gardening, how to prepare and cultivate the soil, and how to preserve food grown.

B. Other Activities.

1. 4-H Camp.

Thirty-five girls and two leaders spent one week at Holiday Lake 4-H Camp. This was the first time many of them had been to camp or even away from home without some member of their family. Many of the members took part on programs that would not take part in the programs in their own clubs.

The girls and boys made bird houses, stools, and hammered aluminum trays in their handicraft class. Each child had something to bring home.

The Senior Woman's Club of Rocky Mount paid the expense of two members, Junior Woman's Club 1 member, Save the Children Federation 1 member, and Idons Club paid 1 member's way to camp. These girls were not able to pay their own way.

The two leaders that attended camp were Mrs. J. B. Flora and Betty Jane Flora. Betty is an All-Star and Honor Club member who was home from nursing school for the summer.

2. State Short Course.

Eight girls and one leader were selected to attend State Short Course in Blacksburg. These girls received training in giving demonstrations, game leadership, songs, and party planning which they could use when they returned to their own club.

Miss Elsie Turner, Club Leader, was sent to Blacksburg with the girls. Her expenses were paid by the Ruritan Club in her community.

Betty Jane Flora attended All-Star Conference. Patricia Ann Tucker attended All-Star Conference and remained for short course.

3. County Fair and Lynchburg Farm Show.

A number of girls entered fruits and vegetables, canning, clothing, cakes, cookies, needle cases, pin cushions, and stuffed toys in the county fair. First, second and third prizes were given in each class.

Three clubs prepared booths at the fair. They exhibited articles made and products produced by the members during the past year. First prize of \$20.00 went to the Redwood Club; second prize \$15.00 to the Franklin County Junior Club; and third prize, \$10.00 to the Burnt Chimney Club.

Several girls entered canning, baking and clothing exhibits at the Lynchburg Farm Show. Patricia Ann Tucker won first place on cotton dress with Tatum Newbill taking second place ribbon. Seven blue ribbons were awarded for canning exhibits.

VII. Scope of Work.

	1948	1949	1950
Number Home Demonstration Clubs or Groups	22	23	23
Membership	529	661	595
No. 4-H Clubs	38	46	50
Membership	651	774	884
Number Older Youth Groups			
Membership			
Number of other families reached	1000	1000	1500
Total number families reached	1529	1661	1700

VIII. Organizations.

1. Board of Agriculture.

A start has just been made on a Board of Agriculture. One meeting was held when the four farm and home agents, two district agents, and organization specialist met with 7 men and 6 women from the county to discuss the forming of the board.

The purpose was explained and many questions were asked. Many more have been asked since the meeting. The first of the year the group will meet again and make plans for a permanent organization.

2. Home Demonstration Committee.

This is the planning board for all of our home demonstration clubs, and is made up of all club presidents and program development chairmen. Two meetings are held, one in the spring to make plans for Achievement Day and all the summer work. In the fall, they meet to plan and make out the years program. At the spring meeting, committees are appointed also. One for Achievement Day program, one for the hostesses for Achievement Day, one for special music, and one for the Year Book. The latter had a very nice year book which was ready and given out at Achievement Day.

3. County A-H Club Council.

The Council is composed of club officers; president, vice-president, secretary, and song leaders from each club. These meet twice a year, once in the fall after new officers have been elected, and once in the spring to plan for fairs, contests, and shows.

The fall meeting is the most important when the officers are given training for their respective jobs. After the business meeting, the groups divide, all presidents going to one room, vice-presidents to another, secretaries to another, and song leaders to another. One agent goes with each group and gives them training for their respective office. Since this has been done at the fall meeting, the agents find that the officers who attend have much better conducted club meetings than those who do not attend.

4. A-H Honor Club.

The Honor Club is one way in which we hold our older club members. This is one of the strongest organizations in the county. Last fall when new members were taken into the Honor Club, four implement dealers of the town gave them a luncheon. Each dealer was present at the luncheon and stayed through the meeting. After the luncheon, the business meeting was held when the new members were initiated into the Honor Club. Many honor club members are now in college so the initiation meeting is held late in December so they can be present.

The Honor Club helps with shows, fairs, and other events when called on. They make their money by sponsoring a refreshment booth at the annual Dairy Calf Show.

Club members are now asking about the Honor Club and what they must do to be chosen.

5. All-Stars.

The All-Stars have just organized their county Chapter. There are more boys than girls in the chapter as many of the older girls have married and moved from the county. It is hoped that they can really have an organization which will do a good work in boasting 4-H club work.

IX. Activities of Volunteer Leaders.

1. Organizational.

Organizational leaders for adults are improving more every year. At the fall planning meeting, while the committee is working on the program, the club presidents are given training in conducting their meeting and in parliamentary law. This is showing up in the way they are improving with the procedure of the meetings. They have attended the committee meetings better or have sent some one in their place when they could not come.

Teachers act as organizational leaders for the 4-H Clubs and are a big help in making suggestions when clubs are organized.

The 4-H members who attend the fall County Council meeting make much better organizational leaders, after they have their training, than those who do not get the training.

2. Program Development Leaders.

Some have functioned very well and some have done nothing. As this is a new office, they need much more training before they will function efficiently.

3. Subject Matter.

The adult subject matter leaders have done a very good job

again. While the agent was on sick leave for two months this summer, the majority of the clubs kept their meetings going. Some gave the demonstrations for three months straight. In all, leaders gave 32 demonstrations without the agents being present. The biggest trouble still is with transportation. The leaders want to come to the leaders training meeting but have no way to get there.

The 4-II subject matter leaders helped out without much training except what they had received in their Home demonstration clubs, when the agent was sick. Mothers of the girls in four clubs had them meet in their home and helped them finish up the work.

Growth of Home Demonstration Club

<u>Project Leadership</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
No. project leaders and goal chairmen	128	147	201
No. training meetings held			
By Specialist	5	7	6
By Agent		1	3
Attendance at all training meetings	124	211	164
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	27	32	32
No. Club meetings at which leaders assisted	29	41	90

<u>Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
No. adult project leaders	17	25	21
No. junior project leaders	2	2	2
No. training meetings held by Specialist	0	0	0
By Agent	0	0	1
Attendance at leader training meetings			3
No. 4-H leaders training individually	17	25	21
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	4	5	4
No. club meetings at which leaders assisted	35	46	9
No. demonstrations given By leaders			
By adult	35	46	48
By junior	2	2	9

X. Cooperating with other Agencies.

The clubs have cooperated with Red Cross, March of Dimes, and Cancer Foundation by giving a donation when the drives were on for these organizations.

They are cooperating with the new community hospital by making a contribution. Already \$275.00 has been raised and the clubs are hoping to bring it up to \$500.00.

The agents give demonstrations to the Senior and Junior Woman's Clubs of Rocky Mount. They, in turn, have given scholarships to club members for camp.

One Ruritan group has a club house with the Home Demonstration Club. The latter has helped furnish the room. This club sends the 4-H leader to State Short Course every year.

The agents also cooperate with the Welfare Department and the Health Department securing club women to help with clinics held.

They cooperate with the American Legion in helping them with the county fair. Very substantial prizes are offered to the 4-H. The agents helped them set up their fair catalogue.

XI. Significance of the Year's Work.

The agents feel that the year's program has greatly contributed to better homes on better farms for better living. It has helped the women make good use of their time by planning, observing, and improving methods. It has given them an opportunity to work together in community service and to keep abreast of the times.

It has helped to make the women more self reliant, to assume more responsibility in all phases of club, community, and county activities. The young people have learned much about efficiency in homemaking by actual experience, and have learned to assume responsibility, which gives them self confidence.

The agents feel that demonstrations have given the club members an eye to notice simplicity in clothing and house furnishings in such a way that they may realize ease of efficiency and economy in homemaking.