

VIRGINIA

LEE COUNTY

Annual Report

HOME DEM. AGENT 1933

Index		Page
1 e 6.41	Piches; Junior. . . . .	18
5 a 3.11	Clothing; Good Grooming. . . . .	10,13
5 c	Clothing; 4-H Clubs. . . . .	16
* 6 a 2.42	Local Leaders; Junior Work . . . . .	5,17-18
6 a 2.43	Training Leaders . . . . .	11,17
6 h 5	Indirect Influence . . . . .	19
6 h 1.3121	Achievement Days; County; Adult. . . . .	13-14
9 d 6	Canning Fruits and Vegetables. . . . .	9
11 c	Health Contests. . . . .	17
12 a 4	Kitchen Arrangement and Equipment. . . . .	8,11

MRD-10



1

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

LEE COUNTY

VIRGINIA

HOME DEM AGENT ANNUAL REPORT

1936

Miss Lucy A. Embrey

Home Demonstration Agent

December 1, 193<sup>5</sup> - November 30, 1936

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Cover and Title Page-----	1
II. Table of Contents-----	2
III. Personal Report Summary-----	3
IV. Status of County Extension Organization-----	4
1. Financial Support-----	4
2. Advisory Board-----	4
3. 4-H Club Council-----	5
4. General Policies-----	5
V. Program of Work-----	6
1. Map of County-----	6
2. Scope of Work-----	7
3. Women's Work-----	8
Major Project-----	8
Minor Projects-----	9-10
Community Activities-----	11
Leader Training-----	11
Virginia Federation of H. D. Clubs-----	11-12
Achievement Day-----	13-14
Rehabilitation Work-----	15
Program of Best Club-----	15
Recreation-----	15
4. Girls' Work-----	16
Major Project-----	16
Minor Projects-----	16
Community Activities-----	17
Leader Training-----	17
Older Girls' Work-----	18
Recreation-----	18
VI. Progress During Year-----	19
VII. Plans and Goals for 1937-----	20

## 111. PERSONAL REPORT SUMMARY

Days in field.....	238.
Days in office.....	59.
Days annual leave.....	11.
Days sick leave.....	4.
Days leave without pay.....	
Legal holidays taken.....	8.
Number home visits made (adult).....	258.
Number 4-H Club demonstrations visited.....	45.
Total number different homes visited.....	358.
Office calls.....	256.
Telephone calls.....	107.
Number news articles for press.....	99.
Number individual letters written.....	1113.
Number different circular letters prepared.....	16.
Number meetings attended.....	251.
Number miles traveled.....	8498.

#### IV. Status of County Extension Organization

##### 1. Financial Support

Lee county has a board of supervisors, which consists of five members. This board is elected by the popular vote of the people every four years. It is the duty of the board to direct the financial affairs of the county. The board appropriates \$750.00 yearly toward the salary of a home demonstration agent.

##### 2. Advisory Board

This being a typical rural mountain county we have very few county organizations. We have nine womens home demonstration clubs. These clubs hold twelve monthly meetings each year. Each club has its own officers - president, vice-president, secretary and reporter. The monthly programs include discussions and demonstrations concerning the activities of the farm homemaker. The officers of the nine home demonstration clubs compose the organization which is known as the County Home Demonstration Advisory Board. The board at its spring meeting elected the following officers: chairman, Mrs. B. T. Young; vice-chairman, Mrs. G. C. Sumpter; secretary, Miss Ella Claus; treasurer, Mrs. T. E. Lovens. The board served a home-products luncheon for its members at the Jonesville High School, October 4, 1935. Miss Maude E. Wallace, state home demonstration agent was the guest speaker.

Following the luncheon Miss Helen Ricks, district home demonstration agent, led the discussion on program planning for 1936. The following program was outlined: major project - The Home Kitchen; minor projects - Food Preservation, Clothing for the Family, Home Beautification of grounds and Handicrafts. Many of the farm homemakers felt their kitchens should be made more convenient and attractive as it was their daily workshop. There are more than 500 homemakers in the county and 625 have been reached directly and indirectly.

### 3. 4-H Club Council

There are 200 girls enrolled in 4-H club work in Lee county. The clubs are organized in these communities: Elk Knob, Rose Hill, Blackwater, Pleasant View, Flatwood, Stickleyville, Ewing, Dryden and Deep Springs.

Each club has its own officers - president, vice-president, secretary, reporter, song leader, and game leader. Each 4-H club has an adult volunteer leader. These leaders meet with the girls and encourage them to learn better home practices and to play together. They also help to stimulate and guide the best interests of the members in every possible way. There are five active 4-H leaders in Lee county and they have attended three meetings. The officers of the 4-H clubs will be organized into a 4-H Club Council in the near future. The purpose of the council is to make and carry out the county plan of work. Two council meetings are to be held each year.

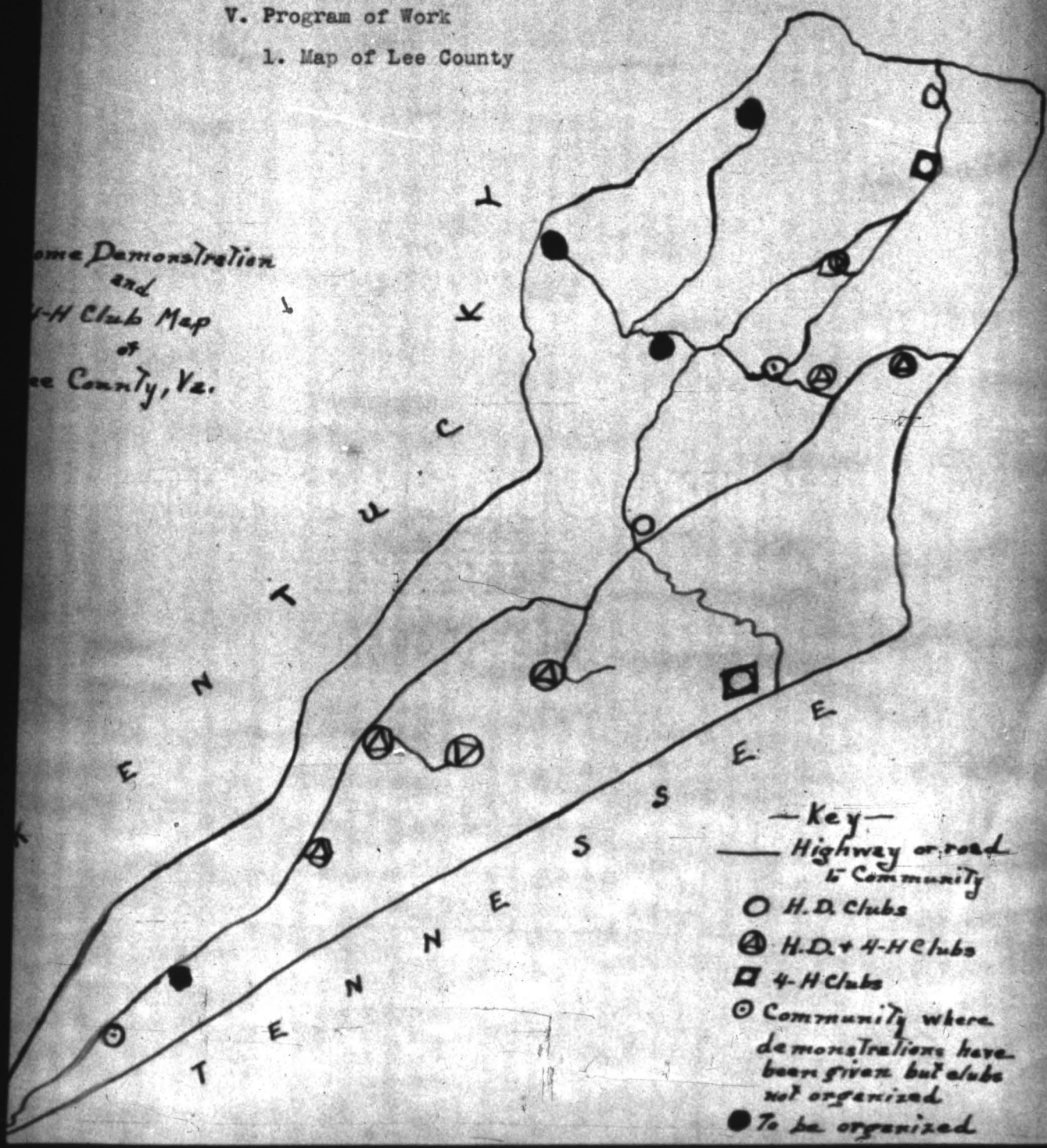
There are 3000 girls of club age in the county and through the organizing of new clubs, we hope to reach at least 300 girls during 1937.

### 4. General Policies

It is the general policy of the home demonstration organization to co-operate to the fullest extent with all groups of workers in the county. The Lee county home demonstration club's purpose is to maintain highest ideals in home, church, school and public life. The home is striving to reach out in service to the communities and help unite the people.

V. Program of Work  
1. Map of Lee County

Home Demonstration  
and  
4-H Club Map  
of  
Lee County, Va.



- Key —
- Highway or road to Community
  - H. D. Clubs
  - ⊙ H. D. + 4-H Clubs
  - ⊠ 4-H Clubs
  - ⊙ Community where demonstrations have been given but clubs not organized
  - To be organized

## 2. Scope of Work

## A. Enrollment for past three years:

## Women

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Clubs</u>	<u>No. Members</u>	<u>Meetings</u>
1935	7	165	54
1936	9	300	108

## Girls

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Clubs</u>	<u>No. Members</u>	<u>Meetings</u>
1935	5	100	43
1936	9	200	117

8

### 3. Women's Work

- a. Major project: The Lee County home demonstration women selected The Home Kitchen as their major project for 1936. In each of the home demonstration clubs two kitchen leaders were appointed so as to reach the largest number of homes.

The farm homemakers of the county felt the old type of kitchen that only permitted the members of the household to enter the kitchen door should be changed to a well-planned kitchen that would eliminate waste hours and add years of youth to life. Beauty has found its way into the kitchen and with its coming, the social prestige of the kitchen has returned. Today, in 167 homes of Lee county the dull, drab monotony of line and tone has given way to bright, joyous color adorning modern equipment possessed of beauty as well as usefulness. Color is life. Human beings react to its influence immediately. Gay, colorful interiors create joy, happiness, and good cheer. A kitchen with ample floor space, orderly arrangement is possessed of rarest beauty.

This Home Kitchen project was made effective by county-wide kitchen-leaders' meetings, which were held by the home improvement specialist, Miss Ruth Jamison. At the monthly meetings the leaders and the home agent stressed the kitchen project by means of demonstration or discussion of various topics.

The reports show: 167 kitchens have been improved for convenience by the purchasing of electric refrigerators, stoves and other articles of equipment. 56 kitchens have new homemade equipment, 28 kitchens have new storage space for supplies and equipment.

The better farm housing campaign was related to the major project and the results obtained include the following: 35 homes have new screening for windows and doors, 4292 pounds of soap made, 72 homes have improved walls, woodwork and floor, 42 women have improved window treatments and 65 new windows have been added for better lighting.

11 living rooms and 13 bedrooms were improved, 160 pieces of furniture have been refinished and 61 pieces re-upholstered.

24 houses painted and 26 work porches improved for use. 45 back yards made attractive by planting flowers and vines. 51 homes improved walks, drives and fences.

b. Minor Projects

1. Food Preservation work was emphasized in each club members' home and the work was done in keeping with the canning budget. The canning budget shows the homemaker what is wrong with the present system. It is nothing more than an estimate of the amount and variety of home-canned food the family will need during the winter months. In order to have a successful food preservation program thought must be given to the year-round garden. A physician once said, "I had rather see your garden than feel your pulse or look at your tongue. Show me the family garden and I will make a good guess about the health of your family." The farm homemaker is realizing to safeguard the health and strength of the family there must be plenty of vegetables growing in the garden.

The food preservation work was made possible through demonstrations, discussions, bulletins, news stories, contests and home visits. The reports from the nine clubs shows that 50,530 containers have been filled with vegetables, fruits, meats, jams, and jellies. This represents a net profit of \$5053.00 to the farm homes of the county.

2. Home Beautifying of Grounds included a study of the lawn and the proper location of buildings, the landscaping of grounds and use of native trees and shrubs.

388 trees and shrubs have been planted on grounds.

The club members were made to feel - "A home and its surroundings must be attractive in order to be most uplifting to the family, visitors, and passers-by."

10

3. Clothing for the family has been of vital interest to the farm homemaker from the standpoint of selection and personal grooming. The club members, today, as never before realize that clothes have a great bearing on a woman's mind, on her mental outlook, as well as her physical appearance.

Clothes that suit, give a feeling of satisfaction of a happy contented frame of mind, which adds to our sweetness of disposition, our attractiveness, our charm. One good way to check up on ourselves and to know when we are wearing our clothes well, is to remember what other people tell us. A woman's personal appearance makes her distinctive--makes her stand out from the rank and file of women. The highest compliment that can be paid any woman is that she is "well groomed and charming."

In many homes we found the fertilizer bags going to waste, and after much discussion and testing out them to use in the form of dresses for - home, street and church, children's garments and table linens. The reports show - 1705 dresses, children's garments and household linens have been made. These home constructed garments have brought a net profit of \$1052.50 to the home.

Mrs. F. R. Wilson of the Elk Knob club won the blue ribbon over sixteen club members that competed in the Cotton Utility dress contest on October 31st. She used the fertilizer sacks and constructed a lovely "thrift coatsuit" for herself. The dress was made at a cost of 48 cents and can be worn as a housedress, street or traveling dress for the color, lines and fabric is such that the dress is a real "Many Occasion" frock.

The nine monthly demonstrations on "correct dress" for farm women created much interest in better dress. These points were stressed: dress economically, comfortable, suitably and attractively. To dress attractively each individual must know the best lines, colors, designs, styles and fabrics for herself.

11

4. Handicrafts

The leisure hours of the club members have been spent in improving 48 chairs, making 39 rugs, 14 chair and table mats, and 45 other articles for the home. 615 knitted garments and household linens were made at a saving of \$507.50.

o. Community Activities

In most of the home demonstration clubs the community activities have been for the purpose of raising funds for club activities, such as: state meetings, achievement day transportation and materials for exhibits. The plays and special programs were presented by the club members. \$189.15 has been raised this year.

The programs were of such a nature as to appeal to both old and young.

The Seminary club entertained their husbands November 21 with a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner. The tables were decorated with native products from fields and woods. The same color scheme was carried out in menu. The food was a real demonstration of the art of food preparation as being practiced in the farm homes of their community. 36 guests enjoyed this dinner and afterward a recreation program was shared by those present. This was an excellent demonstration of the true meaning of the spirit of cooperation. The men and women of Seminary community are looking forward to many more of such gatherings in the future.

1 club

d. Leader Training

Three Kitchen-leader training meetings have been held during the year. It is the duty of these leaders to give demonstrations and assist the agent in project work. These leaders visited club members and collected reports on work done. 135 women attended these meetings and Miss Ruth Jamison, home improvement specialist gave the demonstrations.

e. Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs

District--The district home demonstration clubs of southwest Virginia met at Tazewell, Virginia, on May 8, 1936.

12

12 club members attended this meeting.

The program started at 10:30 A. M. with special music and Mrs. L. A. Tynes, presiding.

Each county in our district made a report of work being done.

Mrs. Guy Roop, State President, made a splendid address on "The Forward March of Our Federation."

At noon, a lovely plate lunch was served by the clubs of the county.

The afternoon program included: group singing, committee reports and a Panel discussion- "What is a Satisfying Rural Lifer" Led by Miss Wallace, State Home Demonstration Agent. Those attending the district meeting returned to Lee county feeling the day had brought them new inspiration and information concerning home demonstration work.

State--The Institute of Rural Affairs and the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs held their annual joint meeting, July 28-30 inclusive and the general theme for the Institute was "The Conservation of Our Agricultural Resources."

Some people of special note were leaders of discussions during the meeting. Some of them were: Dr. H. A. Morgan of the Tennessee Valley Authority; Dr. D. S. Myer of the Soil Conservation Services; Dr. Carl C. Taylor of the Resettlement Administration; and Mr. Allen Eaton of the Russell Sage Foundation, and Mrs. Eudora Richardson of Richmond.

The speakers for the evening meetings were: Mrs. Chas. Shuttle of the National Farm Bureau, who discussed-- "Conserving our Heritage;" Mr. Chester C. Davis of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, who discussed "The Necessity for Agricultural Planning," and Hon. John Temple Graves of Birmingham, Alabama, who discussed "The Conservation of Human Resources."

11 home demonstration club members were sent as delegates to this state meeting.

f. Achievement Day

Achievement Day, which was held on October 31, at the Jonesville high school building, marked the ending of a wonderful year's work in home demonstration activities.

Early in the morning the farm homemakers arrived with their exhibits of canned products, needlework, baskets of flowers and rare old articles. A portion of the morning was given over to the arranging of the exhibits from the various clubs, and the judging of dresses and exhibits.

At 11 A. M. Mrs. B. F. Young the county advisory board chairman for the home demonstration clubs, presided over the program, which included: community singing and reports of the District Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs and the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. At noon a delicious plate lunch was enjoyed by 350 women, girls and men.

The afternoon program was as follows: Style Revue by home demonstration club members. Mrs. F. R. Wilson won first award for her fertilizer sack dress, which was becoming and beautifully constructed. The second award went to Mrs. Carden Davidson for her lovely dress of blue cotton crepe. Each of the nine home demonstration clubs had a splendid report of the accomplishments during the year.

The Seminary club won first place for best canning club records and for the best exhibit of canned products, the first award went to Ewing and the second to Seminary.

In the needlework group, Jonesville won first while Dryden came in for second place.

In the flower exhibit, a table arrangement prepared by Mrs. G. C. Sumpter was given first place.

Thirty-two women of the county took part in a Kerr Canning Contest and a Ball Canning Contest. Their products were judged at the club exhibit and the highest scoring products were bought to the county exhibit.

14  
Miss Ella Claus, Elk Knob club ranked highest in the Kerr contest and Miss Eliza Slemm ranked first in the Ball contest. Their products went to the district contest and were ranked third in the district.

#### The Quilt Exhibit Attracted Much Attention.

Quilting and patchwork have been hobbies of women since time immemorial. Even in Biblical times, patchwork, piecing, and quilting were done, but not for bedcovers until the women of Early American civilization made quilts.

Quilting bees were one of the most common social events of that era and ultimately beauty emerged from the ingenious piecing and patching of gay bits of colored cloth. Woman's innate love of the finer things of life was not satisfied until she had created something artistic with which to brighten her home. Therefore, a real American art was born.

Many of the old quilts tell the fascinating story of the settling of our country. Others were named for everyday things. Nine artistic quilts were exhibited by the clubs on Achievement Day. The blue ribbon was awarded to Miss Ella Claus of Elk Knob Club for her splendid copy in yellow and white of the Pickle-dish pattern. The red ribbon was awarded to Miss Wampler of Seminary Club.

The 4-H Style Revue consisted of three classes of dresses: the school dress, the sport outfit and the church outfit. Each dress was worthy of praise and the highest scoring dress in each class received a gold pin, which was given by the Chicago Mail Order Company. To each girl taking part in the style revue a silver pin was given. These pins were given by the Chicago company. The highest scoring cotton sport dress was worn by Daisy Hyatt of Deep Springs Club. Her award included a trip to the district contest and a special gold pin. She was ranked second in the district contest.

The concluding number on the program was the Summary of the Year's Work by Miss Lucy Embrey, home demonstration agent. The report indicated interest and enthusiasm in the work and the exhibits were excellent results. Those attending the program considered it educational, recreational and a successful achievement.

g. Rehabilitation Work.

Spent one day in field with supervisor. We visited five families. I have furnished bulletins, patterns and monthly helps for 50 families. I have furnished these materials in order to help create a greater interest in homemaking among the clients.

h. Program of Sticklebyville Club.

April 20, 1936

Place: Schoolhouse

Time: 2 P. M.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. B. T. Young. The roll call was answered by the citing of one factor that helps create a "homey atmosphere" within the home.

A round-table discussion by the members as to how we can make home more attractive by using what we have at hand was of great interest to all present. Mention was made by the club president and other members as to the happiest homes they ever knew.

The afternoon demonstration included the exhibition of a very attractive fertilizer sack dress, a crocheted shopping bag, and an excellent display of children's clothing from cotton fabrics.

The program was concluded by the singing of "Home Sweet Home."

i. Recreation.

Nine recreation programs were presented at the various clubs. These programs consisted of music, readings and games. The farm homemaker is now realizing that play is nature's way of educating the child and prepares him for life's activities. Recreation gives relief from work or toil. Its chief value lies in the rebuilding of the mind and body for the more serious work of life. Browning has very beautifully expressed this in these lines.

"Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life, for which  
the first was made."

16

4. Girl's Work.

a. Major project-- The project selected by the girls of Lee county was that of clothing. The purpose of the program was to aid the girls in establishing good dress standards for home and school clothing. During the year the girls completed the requirements for both the first and second year clothing projects. The value of good posture was stressed at all meetings and such points as: selection, making and care of clothing so as to attain the goal of "being well-dressed at all times." 100 girls report having darned and mended their own clothing and at spare time helped mother with the family mending.

The girls' reports show they have made 150 dresses, 121 undergarments and mended 332 garments.

✓ Daisy Hyatt of Deep Springs club won the county gold medal for having the best constructed and most stylish cotton wash sport dress, which was made from four chicken - feed bags after they were dyed black. Her complete outfit consisted of dress, remodeled hat, purse, gloves, shoes, hose, girdle, slip and brassier. She made her own undergarments at a cost of 96 cents. The total cost of her outfit was \$7.27.

Ina Davis represented Lee County in the Clothing Judging Contest which was held at the State Short Course, Blacksburg, July 20-25. She ranked second in the state contest.

b. Minor projects.

Growth Work.

The club members of the county took as a minor project and slogan for 1936 - "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body." The growth work program is planned to teach the members standards for her own development just as we teach her standards for her club products. It is not a separate project but a part of the training which every member should receive through the 4-H club. The standards for the growth work program are set up on the member's record card. This card provides space for a five-year record. It was set up cooperatively with the State Board of Health.

The Five Point goal should be considered as a basis in which to begin the growth work program.

There were 200 girls enrolled in 4-H work for 1936. 56 of the girls were examined in the county Growth Contest and two girls led the group. Helen Orr of the Dryden club and Eva Lee Whitt of the Flatwood club. Helen represented Lee County in the state contest which was held at Blacksburg, July 20-25. She was ranked second in the state.

The number of members making definite improvements in:  
a. Posture were 75; b. Teeth were 50; c. Food Habits were 63.

#### Canning

The club members selected as a minor project--Canning. This work was planned and done in cooperation with the mother in the home. The girl's reports show that 2747 containers were prepared for the home pantry.

#### c. Community Activities.

Achievement Day, this year, was held jointly with the women and an account of the day's activities is given under women's work.

The club members in the nine clubs had "Community Benefit" programs so as to raise funds for sending club delegates to the State Short Course at Blacksburg, July 20-25. 12 girls represented Lee county and was given transportation by the County School Board in a school bus. The clubs raised \$71.76 for club activities. The Blackwater 4-H club led the nine clubs in raising funds, which amounted to \$35.00. They sent three delegates to Short Course. ✓

#### d. Leader Training.

Three leader's training meetings were held during the year. These women are selected as a guide in each community where there is an organized 4-H club. Their duties are to assist and instruct the club members in conducting their projects. It is also their duty to help the members understand the requirements of the project and to study and follow the instructions. They

18

also visit club members' homes in order that better understanding and more cooperation may be fostered. In addition to the above named duties the leaders keep the community folk informed of the general activities of the club and special achievements of the members. There are five active leaders in the county. To find trained leaders is a big problem at the present time.

e. Older Girls' Work.

There is one Junior Homemaker club in the county. This club consists of both single and young married women. They have been very faithful and have done some splendid work but we are brought face to face with the fact the single girl is not interested in the problems of the young married girl.

f. Recreation.

Again, the chief recreational feature of the 4-H clubs has been camp-fire suppers. The nine organized clubs have held one such outdoor activity. In spite of the dread of packing a lunch, there is a real appeal in a meal in the woods. The chief weakness in most picnics or outings is the meal gets most or all of the attention. The Flatwood 4-H girls had a joint outing with the 4-H boys down on Powell River. A part of the food was prepared at home and the remainder cooked over an open fire. 42 young people enjoyed this outing. The ending of an outing of this kind is as important as the meal. Games, stories and songs sung at twilight sends the guests homeward with much joy.

**VI. Discuss Progress Made During the Year.**

Home Demonstration work and 4-H club work have progressed splendidly inspite of the many county problems. The clubs have almost doubled their enrollment and attendance has increased 50 per cent over that of last year. Each club member has influenced other women either directly or indirectly and to-date 640 farm homes have changed many practices. 358 homes have had personal visits by agent.

The farm homemaker is realizing now as never before the need of better homes, better schools, better community life and better roads.

I am not satisfied with results obtained but feel to awaken in the rural families of Lee county a deeper appreciation of the opportunities of the farm home is as much as can be expected this year.

X

### VII. State Plans and Goals for 1937.

The Advisory Board of Lee County has agreed upon the following plan of work for the home demonstration clubs of the county: Major project--The Well Dressed House; Minor projects--Budgets and Food Preservation, Clothing and Food Preparation; the county-wide campaign is "Better Housing;" and the county goal--"Rural Electrification."

The 4-H clubs of Lee County have selected as their major project for 1937--Food and Nutrition. The minor projects are: 4-H Growth Work and Table Linens.

The 4-H Club Goals for 1937 are these:

1. Better club attendance
2. 100% club reports
3. Send delegates to State Short Course
4. Better project work
5. Better cooperation and loyalty to club and leaders.
6. Help make home a more liveable place
7. Help make community a better place in which to live.
8. Try to improve health for better living in home and community.