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SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT

1955

Mrs. Louise N. Cooley

Home Demonstration Agent

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. COVER ----- 1

II. TITLE PAGE ----- 2

III. TABLE OF CONTENTS ----- 3-4

IV. THE COUNTY SITUATION AS IT AFFECTED THE 1955 PROGRAM 5-7

V. ADULT WORK

    A. Project Work

        1. Home Management ----- 7-8

        2. Foods ----- 8-9

        3. Housefurnishings----- 9-10

        4. Clothing ----- 10

        5. Rural Arts----- 10-11

        6. Other ----- 11

        7. Housing ----- 11

    B. Community and County Wide Activities ----- 11-14

        1. Drives and Campaigns ----- 14-15

        2. Fredericksburg Fair ----- 15

        3. Belmont Horse Show ----- 15

        4. Home Demonstration Market ----- 15-16

VI. FAIR: AND HOME DEVELOPMENT ----- 16-17

VII. 4-H CLUB WORK

    A. Project Work

        1. Foods and Nutrition ----- 17-18

        2. Clothing ----- 18

        3. Room Improvement----- 18

        4. Housekeeping ----- 19

        5. Farm and Home Electric----- 19-20

    B. Other Activities

        1. Jamestown Camp ----- 20

        2. Short Course ----- 20-21

        3. District Contests ----- 21

        4. Fredericksburg Fair----- 21

VIII. YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN'S WORK	21-22
IX. SCOPE OF WORK	22
X. ORGANIZATIONS	
A. Home Demonstration Committee	22-23
B. County Board of Agriculture	23
C. County 4-H Council	23
D. County All Stars	23
XI. LEADERSHIP	
A. Contributions of Leaders to the Program	
1. Organizational	24
2. Program Development Leaders	24-25
3. Subject Matter Leaders	25
B. Growth of Leadership	25-26
C. Activities of an Outstanding Leader	26-28
D. Outstanding Achievements from Family Standpoint	28
E. Outstanding Accomplishments of a H. D. Club	28-29
F. Significant Achievement in Extension Work	29-31
XII. APPRAISAL OF YEAR'S WORK	31

NARRATIVE REPORT OF HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK  
IN SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

1955

IV. THE COUNTY SITUATION AS IT AFFECTED THE 1955 PROGRAM

Home Demonstration work in Spotsylvania County has proceeded along on a fairly well organized basis during this year. After having experienced the difficulties of previous years, it has really been a pleasure to work in the county under normal conditions.

Both home demonstration and 4-H clubs are back on a regular schedule, officers and committees readily accepted their obligations, and assisted in directing club projects and activities to a successful conclusion.

Spotsylvania cannot be classified as a typical rural county. Though there are no large towns in the county proper, proximity to Fredericksburg, Richmond, Washington and numerous smaller towns are responsible for the urban trend. There seem to be a number of large farms, owned by wealthy people who live elsewhere and have farm managers, or who operate the farm on a specialized scale. The principle types of farms are dairy, general farming or livestock.

The principle sources of income to rural families, besides farming are from garment factories in Fredericksburg, the Sylvania Division of the American Viscose Corporation in Spotsylvania County near Fredericksburg, the Marine Base at

Quantico, and other businesses at Fredericksburg. Many of the families have non-farm homes, they live in the county, own a small home, a few acres of land where they may have a garden, a pig, a few chickens, and possibly a cow. Some of the families avail themselves of these opportunities, but many purchase all of their food.

Due to the serious drought, we have had during the past three years, farm families have been seriously handicapped in their farming program. Not only have their crops been a failure, but credit has become strained. A decline in livestock, poultry and crop prices has made additional hardships.

Many of our county women have gotten jobs to supplement the family income. In many instances both the husband and wife work. Where there are children some parents arrange for some adult to have charge of them while they are at work. Many parents leave their children without supervision.

Living accommodations are in much demand in and around Fredericksburg, due to the Quantico Marine Base, and the A. F. Hill Army Reservation. Rents are so high that where families have an extra room they rent them to marines and their wives. At times two or three couples are living in the same home and using kitchen privileges. This makes for a disrupted family living schedule and is not conducive to wholesome family living. However, due to the severe drought in the county, family incomes need to be supplemented.

The county is so infested with non-farm families that there are few true agricultural communities in Spotsylvania County.

In setting up our program of work for the year our club women said that they had so many demands on their time from outside sources that they wanted help in organizing their homemaking schedule, and all of the short cuts and better methods, they could get to assist them in their household tasks. With this in mind we based most of our program for the year upon home management topics.

#### V. ADULT WORK

##### A. Project Work

##### 1. Home Management

Since our major field of work was in this line all efforts centered around planning for efficiency and better methods.

Our objectives were to assist our homemakers in working out a flexible schedule to help them systematize their home tasks. We hoped to teach short cuts in cleaning and use of better equipment, to teach care and laundering of synthetics to save laundry hours, and to teach methods of spot and stain removal from household articles.

To carry out our program a few preliminary steps were needed. We wanted some basic background facts on how our homemakers spent their time.

A typical rural family was selected, and the homemaker agreed to keep a record of her time spent on various activities for one week. We then held a leader training meeting of our home management

leaders, presented these facts, and asked that they too, try to keep this record before their club demonstration. A few did this, but others found too many interruptions. We were pleased to have fifteen records on time schedules.

Results from the years program of work were gratifying. Forty-eight homemakers reported changes in their schedules.

Twenty-two demonstrations were given by trained leaders in the home management project, and seventeen leaders assisted the home agent in giving demonstrations.

Information on home management topics was passed on to two hundred and ninety-seven additional homemakers.

An exhibit on time and motion study was put on by the Spotsylvania Home Demonstration Clubs at the Fredericksburg Fair in September, and a five dollar prize was awarded the exhibit.

## 2. Foods

We continued our plan for saving time by using food demonstrations that would assist with this program. Two food demonstrations were given early in the year on "Quick Meals from the Freezer and Refrigerator," and One Bowl Cakes.

Twenty-two leaders were trained by the agent and the home economist from Virginia Electric and Power Company. As a result of this training, leaders held fifteen of the demonstrations and assisted the agent with seven other demonstrations. Our homemakers reported that they were using more of the quick meals recipes, and found that they cut down on time in food preparation.

### Hillcrest Club Is Given Flower Demonstration

Members of the Hillcrest Home Demonstration Club were shown Monday night how to make arrangements from flowers in their own gardens.

The demonstration was given by Mrs. Clayton Foster, chairman of the garden division of the Spotsylvania Woman's Club, and her sister-in-law, the Spotsylvania County Woman's Warrick Foster, a member of the garden division.

About six arrangements, mass and line, were made by the demonstrators. The two women also used favorite containers of members to make arrangements in.

Delegates and alternates to the Institute of Rural Affairs in Blacksburg were elected by the club. Mrs. Wilbur Gardner and Mrs. Ray Bailey are the delegates. Alternates are Mrs. H. M. Hulvey and Mrs. L. J. Williamson.

The club will send a girl to 4-H summer camp this summer.

Announcement was made of a district program planning committee meeting to be held Friday at the Courtland Club House. The meeting will be followed by a tea in honor of the outgoing district agent, Mrs. Betty Kyle, and the new agent, Miss Etsa Mintz.

### Belle Burke Club Is Given Pointers On Quick Meals

Mrs. Pearl Roche, food leader of the Belle Burke Home Demonstration Club, demonstrated and served a complete quick meal from the freezer in one hour at a recent meeting of the HD Club.

She gave rules on freezing and how to make the most of a home freezer.

Several members of the club were to attend a chair-bottoming clinic today at Todds Tavern. They were: Mrs. Pearl Roche, Mrs. Ann Luck, Mrs. Georgia Maser, Mrs. Ann Haley, and Mrs. Edna Dickenson.

The president discussed a tour of the United Nations and New York to take place the latter part of March and a tour of embassies in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Goodwill Guild, in April. The tour will benefit the handicapped and a tea will be held at the British Embassy which will be attended by Mrs. Eisenhower and Mrs. Nixon.

A federation meeting will be held in April at Bowling Green.

The club will meet again next month for a program on landscaping and yard improvement. The meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Ann Luck.

#### H. D. CLUB ACTIVITIES

As a follow up of food preservation demonstrations, one hundred and sixty-five club members report the following: 12,275 quarts of food canned, 19,172 pounds frozen and 8,621 pounds of meat frozen. This has been our best garden season in three years, and our homemakers really took advantage of it.

Seventy-nine club members reported owning home freezer, eleven of these were purchased this year.

### 3. Housefurnishings

This was one of our most interesting and popular subjects this year. Our objectives in our program were to teach our women how to refinish, and use correctly, attractive accessories in their homes.

Much interest was shown in housefurnishings subjects used as special interest meetings. Three meetings were held on refinishing furniture, and thirty-five women participated in these. Members reported refinishing forty-two pieces of furniture. Some of these were dining-room tables, small radio tables, chairs, beds, wash stands, chests and desks. Several of these were on display at our Achievement Day Program.

Three meetings were held on rebottoming chairs and footstools. Television popularity has given a boost to footstool making. Twenty-one stools were made. One fireside bench and eleven chairs rebottomed. Four porch rockers were rebottomed.

As a follow up of upholstering work three women have re-upholstered five pieces of furniture and will serve as leaders,

in our next years program. The pieces of furniture were on display at our Achievement Day Program and at the Fredericksburg Fair.

#### 4. Clothing

Judging for fair exhibits proved especially helpful this year. At a judging school in Charlottesville last year six of our women were trained to assist with judging at fairs. These leaders discussed judging at our club meetings, and helped with our local fair. They also assisted the home agent in judging at two other nearby fairs.

Two club groups scheduled two special meetings on Clothing Construction in order to assist young homemakers with childrens clothing. At the close of the meetings the women had an exhibit of garments made.

Two special interest meetings were held on Use of Sewing Machine Attachments. These were well attended, and much interest was shown by club members.

#### 5. Rural Arts

Handicraft is always a popular project in the home demonstration program. The main interest this year was centered around flower arrangements and making corsages from home grown flowers.

The objectives for this work were:

(a) To teach homemakers who want to do handicraft to do a job that will be artistic and one they and their friends will appreciate because of good workmanship. Nineteen special interest

meetings were held. Five meetings on etching trays and three on Early American Stenciling were held. Thirty-seven trays were etched, twenty-two trays stenciled and four pieces of furniture stenciled. Three meetings were held on craft strip jewelry. As a follow up of last years work fifteen club members are making articles in leather craft and ten are stenciling material.

Craft work will be carried over into next years program with a possibility of even better results.

#### 6. Other

Three clubs had garden and poultry leaders who reported timely information at club meetings. Five club members attended the Tri-county poultry meeting held in March.

Eleven clubs had demonstrations on flower arrangement. Two clubs held flower shows at local schools in June.

Four club members served as result demonstrators on small fruits and berries, and nine members in yard improvement.

#### 7. Housing

Work in the housing field has been done with individuals. The home agent has assisted with requests on remodelling homes, installing bath rooms, and storage problems in other room than the kitchen.

#### B. Community and County-wide Activities

Health was chosen for the Federation Goal for 1955 and Mrs. R. A. Carpenter was named County Health Chairman.

Objectives set up by the Committee were:

1. To have each club have an active health chairman to direct health work and cooperate with the Civil Defense Program.
2. To cooperate with the health department in conducting its clinics.
3. To urge club members to have annual physical check-ups.
4. To urge club members to take out hospitalization insurance.
5. To emphasize home and highway safety in club programs.
6. To discourage "litter-bugs."

Nineteen First Aid Kits were made. Sixty-eight women reported that they had corrected accident hazards at home.

Club members also assisted the health department in the pre school, and well baby clinics. Sixty-two members report physical check-ups this year, and seventy-nine are carrying hospitalization insurance. Eighty-six club members had chest X-rays.

National Home Demonstration Week was observed by every club in the county. Special publicity was given in local papers, and over the radio. Club histories were prepared and charter members and past presidents were honored. Several clubs had "open house" or teas in observance of the occasion.

Twelve club women and the home agent attended the Institute of Rural Affairs and the State Federation Meeting at Blacksburg in July.

Forty-three women attended the District Federation Meeting.

Fartlow Community participated in the Community Improvement Program during the year. Monthly programs were planned, and several contests were sponsored, such as mail box improvement, improved farm entrances, and a contest on Christmas decorations for the home.

Courtland Home Demonstration Club deserves special recognition for continuing improvements on their community building. The building is debt free, and is quite an asset to the community. This year the group is landscaping the grounds around the building and remodeling their kitchen. A well has been dug, and electric pump installed and a new sink put in the kitchen. They are planning to build more cabinets and work tables. The group has raised money for these improvements by serving suppers to organizations, selling food at the Dog Mart in Fredericksburg and having a food concession at the Fredericksburg Fair. They sold over \$500 worth of food at the fair.

Home Demonstration Club members closed their years work by holding their Annual Achievement Day Program. Invitations were sent to County Officials, friends from other counties, and charter members of the county organization and as many ex-members as could be contacted. One hundred persons attended the program that was held in a local community house. Exhibits showing phases of the program were on display, and club skits were presented. Guest speakers were Dr. Joseph Parish who spoke

On "The Salk Vaccine," and Mrs. Alis Bailey who discussed the local Mental Health Chapter and its aims.

Immediately following the program a "pot luck" lunch was served to the members and visitors.

Our Home Demonstration Committee donated \$50.00 to the local fire department.

Another event of interest was the Annual Tea given to the high school seniors in April. The senior class, their mothers, and the entire faculty of the school were invited to be guests of the Home Demonstration Club members for this annual event.

The group was received in the gymnasium by the officers of the Home Demonstration Committee, who composed the receiving line.

The gymnasium was attractively decorated in the class colors, green and white. Candles, flowers, and refreshments were all planned to fit into the color scheme, and altogether it made a most attractive setting. Food and decorations were furnished by the various clubs throughout the county.

#### Drives and Campaigns

The March of Dimes, Red Cross, T. B. Association, Cancer Drive, Fannies for Friendship and CROP were all contributed to by Home Demonstration Clubs because of their worthiness and because of the interest the women have in this work. A total of \$265.00 was contributed by clubs to these causes.



*Staff Photo*  
**JUNIOR AND SENIOR** beauty queens present a study in contrast at the crowning last night of "Miss Spotsylvania" for 1970 and 1955. The 3-year-old, Charlene McKeefield, is stoik, and Kitty Thorburn, 14, smiles blissfully after their selection. Both are from Chancoellor.

**'MISSES SPOTSYLVANIA':  
 Queens Are 14 and 3½**

BEAUTY CONTEST SPONSORED BY H. D. CLUBS

Our Spotsylvania County Home Demonstration Committee held a Beauty Contest in May to raise funds for the Adult Education Center at Blacksburg and for county expenses. Four hundred dollars was cleared on this project and the county sent \$100.00 to Blacksburg for the Adult Education Center.

Fredericksburg Fair

Home Demonstration Clubs had a local fair chairman whose duty it was to stimulate interest in the fair and get members to send exhibits. Club members assisted as superintendents in the various departments, and helped organized the exhibits. The home agent felt that the exhibits were of excellent quality. Spotsylvania women won a large number of prizes and awards. A County exhibit was put up on "Wise Planning Saves Time."

Belmont Horse Show

One of the main money making activities of the Belmont Home Demonstration Club in the county was the Belmont Horse Show. This is an annual affair and quite an event in the county. Club members furnished lunch and assisted in serving to the huge crowd who attend the show. Five hundred and fifty-three dollars was realized from the gate receipts and sale of the lunch during the day.

Home Demonstration Market

The Spotsylvania Home Demonstration Market is open in the Fredericksburg Community House each Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. On special holidays such as Thanksgiving and

Christmas the market is open on the day before the holiday to give homemakers an opportunity to secure freshly baked cakes, pies and breads, and fresh poultry and eggs.

The Market, established during the depression, when farm finances were at a low ebb, has helped many farm people in the county solve financial problems. It offers every active Home Demonstration Club Member an opportunity to sell her surplus farm produce, baked products, and handiwork, and to help supplement the farm income.

Four different homemakers sold on the market this year, selling a total of \$3277.40. This is an average of \$819.35 per person, although sales vary greatly due to regularity in attendance and quantity of products sold.

Ten club women went to Washington and visited eleven foreign embassies.

One club went to Richmond to visit the Museum of Fine Arts.

Two women took a trip to New York and visited the United Nations. They joined a group of women from a nearby county.

#### VI. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Work with our Farm and Home Development program has progressed rather slowly in our county. We felt we needed to be especially careful in our selection of families to work with, and that the program should be well publicized before we started.

Our first step was to explain the program to our Board of Supervisors, and to our Home Demonstration Committee. The executive committee of our Home Demonstration Committee agreed to serve in an advisory capacity in helping select our families.

Several families were contacted, but did not seem to be interested. We were very happy to have a family approach us for assistance. This family is a new one in our county and we feel it will be a very worthwhile one to work with.

The farm they had bought had depreciated in value, the land needed to be built up, and much repair and remodeling needs to be done to the home. We feel that this will be an excellent family to start with, and it will certainly show results. We are assisting them in their plans for these improvements.

#### VII. 4-H CLUB WORK

##### A. Project Work

##### 1. Foods and Nutrition

Twenty-four girls enrolled in the Meal Preparation Project. One group carried the work during the school year. Another group carried this during the summer, meeting once a week. As a result of the project we had a report of 4300 dishes prepared during the year and two hundred and twenty-seven meals served. Four girls took Breads for a project, baking bread eight-six times. Five girls took Freezing for a project and froze two hundred and

fifty-five quarts of food and ninety-seven pounds of meat. Four girls took canning and canned two hundred and sixty-eight quarts of food.

## 2. Clothing

Clothing is always a popular project with our girls, and this year we had one hundred and one enrolled in Learning to Sew, ten enrolled in Clothing Construction and eleven in Looking your Best. Our aim was to teach elementary work and correct methods to the beginners, and follow up with improved practices with the older girls.

Results in the clothing program were gratifying. Ninety-eight girls completed their clothing projects, making a total of ninety-six new garments, and making four hundred and twenty-five other articles.

## 3. Room Improvement

Six girls selected Room Improvement for their project, four of them taking their own rooms. These club members planned color schemes for their room, rearranged rooms to make the easier to care for, made accessories for clothes closets, and other attractive articles to bring color into their rooms. Seventeen rooms were improved during this work, and thirty-six articles were made. Five girls completed this project, and most of these have selected this project for next year.

#### 4. Housekeeping

Thirty-six girls enrolled in the Housekeeping project and all thirty-six completed their project. I believe this is the first time this has ever happened in any projects that I have supervised.

These girls took seventy-seven daily tasks, forty-eight weekly and forty-two monthly jobs and carried them thru successfully reporting improvements in methods and time saving. They made sixty-seven articles to make housekeeping more efficient, such as, covers for sops and brooms, dustless dust cloths and securing baskets for cleaning supplies.

#### 5. Farm and Home Electric

Twenty-seven girls enrolled in the Farm and Home Electric Project, but only twelve completed. This was the poorest completion for the year. We blamed this on poor meeting facilities.

The local power companies assisted with this project and gave excellent demonstrations, but club members had very little time to work on actual problems.

Sixty-five articles were completed, such as service cords and lamps. A number of improvements were reported on home lighting.

At the close of the winter project year, contests on all projects were held, and club members exhibited the articles they

### Tea for Seniors Set Tomorrow At Spotsylvania

An annual senior tea, sponsored by Spotsylvania County Home Demonstration Club Women, will be held tomorrow at Spotsylvania High School.

The 1:30 to 3 o'clock affair will be attended by members of the graduating class, their mothers, Spotsylvania High faculty members, and county officials.

Mrs. Louise Cooley, Spotsylvania HD agent, says this is the fifth or sixth year the annual tea has been held.

The event will be held in the school's gymnasium. Dancing also is planned.

Home Demonstration Club presidents in the county will preside at the tea table.

Those on the committee in charge of arrangements are Mrs. James Flewellen, chairman; Mrs. R. K. Carver, foods; Mrs. W. B. Foster, decoration; and Mrs. Mary L. Broadius, program.

### County Group Leaves for Camp At Jamestown

Mrs. Louise Cooley, Spotsylvania County home demonstration agent, Miss Lois Erdman, student agent trainee from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and three 4-H Club girls left here today for Jamestown 4-H Camp.

Miss Erdman has been working in Spotsylvania County during the past month learning extensive work from practical experience. She will be graduated from the next year in the Home Economics Department and is a prospective home demonstration agent.

The three girls are Betty Morrison, Kitty Thorburn and Mary Ann Frazier.

Camp Week at Jamestown begins Monday for 4-H members in the following counties: Stafford, Spotsylvania, Caroline, King George, Essex, Westmoreland, and Richmond.



SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY ACTIVITIES



4-H DELEGATION TO STATE SHORT COURSE

### Miss Morrison Made All-Star 4-H Member

Betty Morrison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Morrison, of Route 1, Spotsylvania County, has been made a member of the Virginia All-Star Chapter of 4-H Club members.

Only one boy and girl in a county is selected each year to be made a member of the chapter which is a honor fraternity for 4-H Club Work. The person is selected for outstanding club work.

Miss Morrison has been a 4-H Club member for seven years, during which time she has completed 16 projects. She is a member of the Spotsylvania High School Band and is active in other school activities.

4-H CLUB ACTIVITIES

had made in their projects.

Demonstrations were given in food and room improvement projects. Notebooks were judged with the exhibits and a scholarship to Jamestown 4-H Camp was given to the girl having the best display of work done, and best records in her note book.

Eleven scholarships were awarded to Jamestown 4-H Camp by the local home demonstration clubs.

#### B. Other Activities

##### 1. Jamestown Camp

Sixty-eight Spotsylvania 4-H club girls and boys attended the district camp in July. They were joined there by a group of campers from Essex, Westmoreland, Stafford, King George and Richmond Counties. The boys and girls enjoyed the fellowship of camping with those from other counties. Two adult leaders and the home and county agents from Spotsylvania attended camp with the young people and assisted with the program.

Our 4-H members distinguished themselves with honors at camp. One of our girls was made Tribal Chief, one boy and two girls served as Tribe Scribes. The week proved to be a wonderful recreational and educational experience for the young people, and they returned home tired but happy from their camping trip.

##### 2. Short Course

Three girls attended the State 4-H Short Course at Blacksburg in July. This was the first trip for the girls and it was a

## Miss Steckler Wins District 4-H Award

Miss Patsy Steckler, of Spotsylvania County, won first place in the home improvement contest at the Northeastern District 4-H Achievement Day Saturday in Richmond.

A member of the Spotsylvania Senior 4-H Club, she will represent the district in the state contest to be held at Blacksburg in July. The winner in the state will go to the National 4-H Congress in November at Chicago.

Miss Steckler received a \$10 gift certificate, a blue ribbon, and a scholarship to the state short course in July at Blacksburg.

About 200 4-H club members, leaders, mothers and home agents from 17 counties attended the Achievement Day. Spotsylvania county placed third for having the largest number of participants. Henrico County boosted the largest number and Hanover and Warwick tied for second place.

Others winning ribbons from Spotsylvania County were: Irlby Page Chewning, blue award, senior clothing achievement; Kitty Thorburn, red, senior food preparation; Betty Morrison, blue, senior dairy foods; Mary Ann Frasier, blue, senior freezing; and Carolyn Heflin, red, junior style review.

All of the winners are members of the Spotsylvania High School Senior Club with the exception of Miss Heflin, who is a member of the Marye 4-H Club.

Two Stafford County girls also won awards. Yvonne Williams, won a red award in senior food preparation and Gloria Skinner won a red award in the junior bread contest.

Mrs. Margaret Dickinson Garnett, of Spotsylvania, was one of the judges. She presented the clothing awards.

Home Demonstrations leaders attending from this area were: Mrs. Louise Cooley, Spotsylvania; Miss Kathleen Goodloe, Stafford; Miss Susan Cole, Caroline; and Mrs. Georgie Rucker, King George.



Miss Patsy Steckler

ONE OF SPOTSYLVANIA  
COUNTY'S OUTSTANDING  
4-H MEMBERS.

wonderful experience for them. One of our girls was made an All Star at this conference.

3. District Contests

Seven girls entered the district contests held in Richmond in March, and one girl was a District winner.

Three girls entered clothing contests, one girl in Frozen Foods, one girl in Dairy Foods, one in Meal Preparation and one in Home Improvement. We were very proud to have every girl win an award. Two Clothing girls won blue ribbons and one received a red ribbon. The girl winning first place in the Home Improvement contest will represent the district in the State Contest. All of the foods girls won blue ribbons.

4. Fredericksburg Fair

4-H club members entered numerous exhibits in all classes at the Fredericksburg Fair. The club members also assisted with preparation for the Fair, such as lining the shelves with paper, assisting in arranging exhibits, and with handing entries to the judges during the judging of exhibits.

The Spotsylvania exhibit put up by 4-H'ers won a blue ribbon and a ten dollar prize.

VIII. YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN'S WORK

Work with young men and women in the county has been done through individuals. We do not have any organized groups in our county. Our All Stars are planning to organize, and are planning a Christmas get-together. Five All Stars serve as 4-H

club leaders and help to promote this organization.

The home agent has assisted several young homemakers with storage and food preservation problems.

IX. SCOPE OF WORK

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
No. H. D. Clubs	13	12	13	11	11
Membership	350	262	270	272	293
No. L-H Clubs	9	9	10	10	9
Membership	186	145	185	200	200
No. other families reached	2000	2000	1200	1200	1200
No. different families reached	2550	2500	1500	1500	1500
No. Community Clubs		2	2	2	1
Membership		75	75	75	40

B. The home agent has taken every opportunity to publicize home demonstration work and bring it to the attention of the public and to individuals through good publicity about the club program in newspapers and over the radio. Individuals and prospective club members have been contacted through home visits, assisted with various problems and invited to attend club meetings.

The home agent has held regular monthly meetings with a group of negro women, who have proved to be very responsive to suggestions. They are interested, and interesting to work with.

X. ORGANIZATIONS

A. Home Demonstration Committee

The Spotsylvania County Home Demonstration Committee guides and directs home demonstration work in the county. It is composed of presidents from the organized clubs in the county, a program development chairman from each club, one person from each

34  
72

### Planning Session Held in County By HD Committee

Mrs. Willard Miller, president of the Spotsylvania County Home Demonstration Committee, was elected county delegate to the Institute of Rural Affairs to be held in Blacksburg in July at the annual planning meeting held yesterday at Courtland Community House.

Reports were heard from Mrs. Frank Pitts, delegate to the national meeting in Washington, Mrs. James Flewelling, on the senior tea, and Mrs. Russell Howard on the recent beauty contest.

The group voted to donate \$100 to the adult center at Blacksburg and \$50 to C. S. Spotsylvania County Fire Department. Plans were made for a county bulletin board, which would eliminate overlapping of county affairs.

Dr. H. D. Crow, health director for Fredericksburg, Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties, announced plans for a dental clinic to be held in Spotsylvania during the summer.

Following the meeting, a tea was held in honor of Mrs. Betty Kyle, former district agent, of Richmond, and Miss Eva Mills, district agent of Northern Virginia District. Prior to the tea Mrs. Kyle and Mrs. Louise Cooley, county home agent, were presented gifts from the committee. The tea committee was composed of Mrs. Lennie Surles, chairman, and Mrs. John Garnett, Jr. Decorations were in charge of Mrs. George Weiner and Mrs. Leonard Clark.

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETINGS

registerial district, and a few members at large. Two meetings are held each year. At the Spring meeting the Committee checks up on the progress of the county program of work, and makes any necessary changes. They also plan for county-wide events, attendance at the State and National meetings, and any other special activities that may come up.

The fall meeting of the committee is for the program planning and setting up goals and objectives for the year. County officers are elected at this meeting, and committees appointed for such activities as Achievement Day, District Federation Meeting, compiling of the Year Book and the Senior Class Tes. The committee also plans for all money-making activities for the organization and appoints committees to take care of this.

B. County Board of Agriculture

At the present time we do not have a County Board of Agriculture, but plans are underway to form one.

C. County 4-H Council

Our Spotsylvania 4-H Council is composed of officers from the nine organized clubs with all 4-H leaders in an advisory capacity. One meeting was held to get the group organized, and to set up goals and objectives for the years work. The club officers were also trained at this meeting.

D. County All Stars

This is included under Older Youth Work.

## XI. LEADERSHIP

### A. Contribution of Leaders to the Program

#### 1. Organizational

The officers of the organized home demonstration clubs in the county are the organization leaders. These leaders take care of all club business matters, plan for raising funds to carry on club activities, appoint committees to carry on club work, keep records of club activities, and summarize the results of the years work. Without these organizational leaders an organized club program could not be conducted in the county.

#### 2. Program Development Leaders

Program Development Leaders have not been used too effectively in Spotsylvania County. We made some progress this year, but much more work needs to be done along this line. The agent feels that a lack of understanding as to what the Program Development Leader is, and what her duties are was the main difficulty. In several cases the wrong person had been appointed for the job.

A training meeting for these leaders was held by the District Agent in May. County background facts were discussed, and whether or not our program was meeting the needs of our people. The effectiveness of the present program and previous programs was also discussed.

The leaders were asked to lead this discussion at their June meetings, and have their club members bring their problems and

suggestions for next year's work at their July meetings. These suggestions were then brought to the fall planning meetings. The plan did not work out too well this year, but a start was made. We are hoping to improve on it next year by having these leaders function throughout the year.

3. Subject Matter Leaders

Our project leaders are our subject matter leaders. Directly after the fall planning meeting club presidents appoint the project leaders for each of the subject matter fields in the year's program. These leaders are then trained for their job either by the subject matter specialists or the home agent.

This year we had ninety different subject matter leaders. Fourteen training meetings were held for these leaders, and as a result of this training forty-six demonstrations were given to home demonstration clubs during the year without the agent's presence. Leaders assisted at forty-seven additional meetings.

B. Growth of Leadership

<u>Growth of H. D. Project Leadership</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
No. project leaders (subject matter)	105	144	154	181	90
No. goal chairmen	13	12	12	11	11
No. program development leaders	8	10	12	11	11
No. result demonstrators			7	5	13
No. training meetings held by Specialists	7	6	6	4	2
by Agent	11	2	16	24	14
by District Agent					1

## Growth of Leadership, con't.

<u>Growth of H. D. Project Leadership</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Attendance at all training meetings	171	113	276	232	294
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	75	78	54	82	46
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	32	10	55	20	47
Demonstrations by leaders	75	78	54	82	46
Talks and discussions by leaders					251
<u>Growth of A-H Club Project Leadership</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
No. Adult project leaders	25	18	18	18	15
No. Junior project leaders	0	2	4	14	12
No. training meetings held by specialist	0	2	3	0	0
by agent	3	2	2	6	8
Attendance at leader training meetings	25	68	79	62	105
No. A-H leaders trained individually	18	18	18	12	15
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	22	32	21	26	26
No. of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	36	45	52	53	52
No. demonstrations given by leaders:					
by adults	112	32	21	26	22
by juniors			4	19	4

## C. Activities of an Outstanding Leader

We have had several outstanding leaders in our home demonstration program this year. Leaders have been called on, and have accepted more responsibility for conducting work than ever before.

Possibly the most outstanding leader is Mrs. W. S. Dickinson, a charter member of the first home demonstration club in the county. Mrs. Dickinson has been an active club member for the past twenty-five years, and has served in every capacity in club, community, and county as a leader in the 4-H and Home Demonstration work. For two years she served as president of the Virginia State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. She is not only a hard worker herself, but influences others to render service. She has missed very few club, district or State Home Demonstration meetings. She has held a club office practically all of the time, and filled in every office in the club, served as county and district president and then was State President of Home Demonstration Clubs. She served as State Public Relations Chairman this year. She was awarded a Certificate of Merit this year for her outstanding contributions to Agriculture.

It was through her efforts and direction that home demonstration work continued to function during the handicaps it suffered in the county several years ago. Mrs. Dickinson continued to contact club officers and direct the program of work. Where the club leaders were not trained to conduct a demonstration she personally went and gave the demonstration or secured someone else for the job.

She has been particularly helpful with the 4-H program during the year, serving as leader, attending the 4-H planning

# VPI Gives 2 Merit Certificates For State Agriculture Service

*By Special Correspondent*  
**BLACKSBURG, July 28**—A Rockingham County poultryman and a Spotsylvania County woman who is active in Home Demonstration Club affairs Thursday night received certificates of merit for distinguished service to Virginia agriculture.

Recipients of the certificates, awarded at the closing program of the twenty-second Institute of Rural Affairs here, were Chester

C. Housh, president of the National Turkey Federation, and Mrs. W. S. Dickinson, past president of the Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs.

Walter S. Newman, president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, presented the awards, which are made annually by VPI.

Housh, a native of Macon, Ill., is a vigorous promoter of the poultry industry. He produced broilers and turkeys on

Maryland's Eastern Shore from 1924 to 1932, when he became community manager in what is now the Farmers' Home Administration. He was located at Elkton while holding that post for 12 years.

In 1942, he started his poultry farm in the Shenandoah Valley. He now produces annually 225,000 turkeys, 250,000 chickens, broilers and keeps 10,000 turkey



Chester C. Housh

Mrs. W. S. Dickinson

**PIPESTONE**  
*on the Sentimental New*  
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*A New Tire*  
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**THOSE OTHER**

meetings, and judging at 4-H contests.

Mrs. Dickinson is never too busy to help others, and her influence has meant much to Extension work in Spotsylvania County.

D. Possibly the most outstanding achievements from a family standpoint are those of the W. S. Dickinson family. I have already related Mrs. Dickinson's activities in the Extension Program, and I can only add that this cooperation is apparent from every member of her family. Mr. Dickinson and both daughter and son take part in the Extension program whenever the opportunity arises. Their cooperation in club and community work as well as county-wide and state programs have proved very helpful.

E. The Hillcrest Home Demonstration Club deserves special recognition for its work and accomplishments this year. It was the only club in the county to accomplish every county goal set up as a standard guide for the year's work. Out of the seventeen goals set up they completed all seventeen. This is quite a record because the goals are set pretty high to encourage better work.

The Hillcrest Club was represented at every county-wide meeting, and every leader training meeting. They conducted five club meetings without the home agent. They increased their membership by securing seven new members.

This club is composed of young married women who are interested in their homes and families, and anxious to try new things. The members are enthusiastic and get much enjoyment from their club program. They are especially active in their community work, and, last year, adopted a relief family of ten members, for their Christmas welfare family. They took clothing and food to the family, and on Christmas Eve took a complete Christmas dinner, all prepared, to the home. Gifts of every kind were presented and the club members felt this was a very special Christmas for the givers as well as the receivers.

F. Perhaps, from the homemakers' point of view, the most significant accomplishment this year was in our home management program.

When discussing our program for the year, our homemakers said that their biggest problem was lack of time to get their many activities and home tasks accomplished. They wanted all of the help we could give ~~them~~ on short cuts, time savers and better methods.

With this in mind our program for the year was centered around planning for efficiency through a study of methods and better equipment.

Six demonstrations were scheduled to assist with this program. The demonstrations were on "Planning the Homemakers' Schedule," "Better Cleaning Methods," "Care and Laundry of Synthetics to

save laundry hours," "Spot and Stain Removal from Household Articles," "Quick Meals from the Freezer and Refrigerator," and "Cake Mixes and One Bowl Cakes." Training meetings were held to train leaders for this program. As a result of this training twenty-two demonstrations were given by leaders in the Home-management project and seventeen leaders assisted the home agent in giving demonstrations.

Information on homemanagement topics was passed on to two hundred and ninety-seven additional homemakers.

An exhibit on "Saving Time through Better Methods and Better Equipment" was put on by the Spotsylvania Home Demonstration Clubs at the Fredericksburg Fair.

Results from the years program were gratifying. We were pleased to have fifteen records on time schedules. Forty-eight homemakers reported changes in their home schedules to make for efficiency in getting work done.

The two food demonstrations on time saving were equally as popular.

Twenty-two leaders were trained by the home agent and the home economist from the Virginia Electric and Power Company.

As a result of this training leaders held fifteen demonstrations and assisted the home agent with seven other demonstrations. Our homemakers reported that they were using more of the quick meal recipes because they found that they cut down on time in food preparation.

## Achievement Day Set Tomorrow For Home Clubs

Dr. J. K. Farish, acting health director for Fredericksburg, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford Counties, will be the guest speaker at an annual achievement day program for Spotsylvania Home Demonstration Clubs.

Skits and exhibits, showing work done during the year, will be presented by the 11 county clubs. They will be judged.

An outstanding club in the county also will be picked on the basis of work done during the year.

The meeting will open at 10:30 a.m. at the Partlow Ruritan Building with a potluck supper being served at noon. Mrs. Louise Cooley, Spotsylvania Home Agent, will give a summary of the year's work.

Presiding at the meeting will be Mrs. Willard Miller, chairman of the Spotsylvania HD Club Committee. Devotionals will be led by Mrs. Harvey Broadus, of the Partlow Club, and group singing by Mrs. Charlesworth Clark accompanied by Mrs. Leonard Clark, both of the Courtland Home and Garden Club.

Hostess club is the Partlow group with the Belle Barks Club in charge of decorations.

## Chancellor Club Picked as Best In the County

100 at Special  
HD Club Program

The Chancellor Home Demonstration Club has been cited as the "outstanding home demonstration club" in Spotsylvania County.

Mrs. Jesse Surles, of Chancellor, president of the winning club, was presented a gavel made from a beam of Kenmore, by Mrs. Louise Cooley, Spotsylvania Home Agent, at Achievement Day ceremonies Saturday.

The club was selected on the basis of work done during the year and for meeting the most goals.

Second place went to the Hillcrest Club and third, to the Partlow Club.

About 100 persons attended the program and saw exhibits and skits put on by the home demonstration clubs in the county. Nine of the 11 county clubs were represented.

The prize-winning skit was presented by the Hillcrest Club on the evils of the "Litterbug." The Partlow Club and the Courtland Home and Garden Club tied for second place.

A Christmas gift-wrapping exhibit won first place for the Chancellor club. Second place in exhibits went to the Spotsylvania Junior Club and third place went to the Belmont Club.

Guest speakers during the day were Dr. J. K. Farish, acting health director for the health unit, and Mrs. Alis Bailey, super-

intendent of the Welfare Department of Fredericksburg.

Farish spoke on the Salk polio vaccine and said the public needs to get over its fear of the vaccine. He said it is perfectly safe and will be a sure preventive for polio.

Mrs. Bailey, who is also secretary of the Frank C. Pratt Chapter of the Mental Health Assn., explained the set-up of the chapter and what it hopes to accomplish. She said it is hoped that at least a one-day a week clinic for mental health will be held in Fredericksburg.

A summary of the year's work was given by Mrs. Cooley. She reported 43 new members with the Spotsylvania Junior Club having a hundred per cent increase in membership.

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT DAY



H. D. SUBJECTS ACHIEVEMENT DAY

The best compliment to the program has come from neighboring counties. Three home agents from adjacent counties reported that their club members have asked for similar topics to be included in their program for the coming year.

### XII. APPRAISAL OF YEAR'S WORK

Results of home demonstration work this year have been creditable. While we have not achieved all of the goals set up in our plan of work, we feel that work has progressed more smoothly than last year. Leaders, officers and committees have readily accepted their responsibilities, and have assisted in directing and completing a full program of work.

More members have joined our clubs. Club rolls show an increase of forty-five members this year. One club doubled its enrollment. Leaders are accepting responsibility in directing county activities.

Both home demonstration and 4-H club members have profited from the years program. This was planned to raise the standards of living in our county homes through teaching wiser planning and better methods. Homemakers are saving time by using better methods in cleaning, laundry work and food preparation. They are selecting the right kind of equipment for the job. They are becoming more "health conscious," and are showing more interest in annual physical check-ups and hospitalization policies. Better nutrition practices are being used.

Altogether, with sound foundation of Home Demonstration work laid in Spotsylvania County and the interest shown in its accomplishments this year, the home agent feels that we are now ready to go into the year 1956 with a better understanding of work accomplished, and a brighter outlook for future progress.