

# VIRGINIA

## AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

### ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Isle of Wight COUNTY

1949

Agent (Miss) Theodora Higgins — Dec. 1, 1948 - Dec. 1, 1949  
Date worked from to

Assistant Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
Date worked from to

Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
Date worked from to

Assistant Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
Date worked from to

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### III. Summary of Achievements

In Isle of Wight County the Federation Goal - "Art in Daily Living" - has been the outstanding work for 1949. This work was something entirely new and different in the clubs and it was fortunate that the State Chairman, Mrs. A. R. Butler, Jr., Carroville, is a resident of this county. Each month a recording and painting were studied and a song sung. These had been selected by Mrs. Butler and one month left for each club to choose a painting and recording that the members wished to study. The origin and history of "Christmas Carols" was also given.

Besides the study of the origin, and painter, the appropriate use of pictures in the home was demonstrated and sources of securing suitable pictures given. Through the floral arrangement and hooked rugs made, and lamps converted it has been possible to study and apply the basic art principles of proportion, balance, rhythm and harmony as well as to use originality in design.

Through nature walks taken a more awareness of the beauties of nature has been developed. The principles of landscaping studied has created an opportunity to create beautiful home surroundings using native and commercial shrubs.

### IV. Adult

#### A. Project Work

##### 1. Foods

Freezing prepared foods was demonstrated by the leaders in the adult clubs. The clubs had one or two leaders, depending upon the size. The leaders were trained by Mrs. Mary Thompson, assistant foods specialist. The leaders were trained the month preceding their demonstration in order to give them time to

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practice. Three leaders who were unable to attend the leader meeting were trained individually by the agent. The object of the demonstrations was to show that cooked foods such as cakes, pies, and stews can be frozen in the homemakers leisure time and be ready for use when most needed.

An average of 850 quarts of fruit and vegetables have been frozen in each club as compared to 450 quarts of fruit and vegetables canned. There were only five quarts of meat canned as compared to 500 lbs. of meat frozen. This, too, is the average for the clubs.

## 2. House Furnishings

Fifteen hooked rugs have been made or are near completion. Some of these have been made with wool yarn while others have used wool garments which were no longer wearable. The leaders in giving the demonstrations stressed the using of wool garments since this is more economical. Color, design, and use of rugs were also stressed. Other rugs have been braided or crocheted. Several homemakers made their rugs to sell.

Realizing that the homemaker would be able to make or convert a more usable lamp if they understood the principles of home lighting, this was studied first. The principle of home lighting has also helped the homemaker in the selection of new lamps or lighting fixtures for her home. The converting of oil lamps was demonstrated followed with a workshop where the women worked on their lamps. Several lamps were made from jugs and bottles. An average of 10 lamps were made in each of the clubs in this county. Making a useful, as well as attractive, lamp was stressed. Leaders were trained by the Housefurnishings Specialist, Miss Ruth Jamison, and gave demonstrations on both the principles of home lighting and converting lamps.

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The appropriate use of pictures in the home was demonstrated by the agent. In discussing the use of pictures, homemakers were urged to use some of the paintings which were discussed monthly by the Federation Goal Chairman. Suggestions were given the homemaker, in whose home the meeting was held, on arrangements of her pictures. The members were given an opportunity to discuss some work done by a local artist. An average of 30 new pictures have been purchased in each of the clubs by homemakers.

A local florist and a homemaker gave very interesting demonstrations to the clubs on flower arrangements. Adding beauty to the home by flower pictures with the use of home grown flowers in the proper container was stressed. The drying of flowers to be used during the months when fresh flowers are not available was discussed and also the making of corsages and miniature arrangements on buttons. An average of 50 flower arrangements have been made by members in each club. This includes arrangements in the homes and churches.

### 3. Home Management

The writing of wills and also deeds, inheritance laws was discussed by three local lawyers—Henderson Parker, Franklin; Franklin Edwards and Rodham Delk, Smithfield. It was felt that the homemaker should be better informed about legal matters in order to be a better citizen. During the "question period" following the talks the homemaker showed that she was aware of the need of securing more information on legal matters.

An average of 15 storage units have been built. This work is the growth of previous demonstrations.

### 4. Improving Home Grounds

The principles of landscaping were discussed in the regular

Club meetings. In this, making a plan was stressed so that the homemaker may achieve a beautiful home ground instead of haphazardly planting. Mr. A. S. Beecher, assistant horticulturist, visited three homes in the county to help make specific recommendations. These homes have been set up as result demonstrations which will be carried until completed. One church was visited also to give suggestions for the parking area. An average of 25 improvements in landscaping have been reported per club.

#### 5. Rural Arts

As a part of our Federation Goal one meeting was devoted to music appreciation. The origin and history of the Christmas "Carols" and also Christmas customs of other countries were discussed by the leaders. These leaders were trained by the State Chairman, Mrs. A. R. Butler, Jr. of Carreville. One homemaker said, "I enjoyed this program more than any we've had because it is so different from our every day tasks of cooking and sewing".

#### 6. Poultry

Mr. A. L. Dean, associate Extension poultry husbandman, visited one farm flock which was carried as a result demonstration. One meeting was held at this demonstration. Suggestions were sent to the demonstrator monthly from the state office. A leader was responsible for making reports to the clubs monthly.

#### 7. Health

Leaders in the clubs notified club members of the clinics held by the health department and told of other up-to-date health measures. Quite a few members took advantage of the X-ray and other clinics. Most of the clubs donated to the cancer and T.B. drives.

## 8. Garden

An average of 50 different vegetables was reported being planted and served by homemakers. Leaders were responsible for keeping members posted on up-to-date gardening practices.

## B. Other Activities

### 1. Federation Goal

"Art in Daily Living" was chosen as the goal. It was fortunate that the State Chairman, Mrs. A. R. Butler, Jr., is a resident of this county. She also served as the county chairman. Paintings such as "The Last Supper", "The Artist's Mother", and "The Mill" were discussed monthly along with a recording—"Meditation", "Unfinished Symphony" and many others. A more familiar selection was chosen for singing, "My Old Kentucky Home" being one. The paintings and recordings were chosen by Mrs. Butler to suit the season or month of the year. Musicians and artists from many different countries were chosen. The leaders, who had been trained by Mrs. Butler, were given at least 10 minutes at every meeting to discuss the artists and musicians. The members looked forward to this discussion each month. Many new recordings were purchased for home use and requests were made for better radio programs.

### 2. Achievement Days

As a part of creative arts in the Federation Goal, each club held a community program. In this way it was hoped that more people would learn about the work. These programs were very varied but were all interesting. Three clubs sponsored the movie, "Historic Virginia". They also had exhibits of work done by club members and group singing. One of these clubs wrote a skit portraying some of their activities. In another of these clubs games were held by A-H girls.

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Two clubs held "open house" inviting people to one of the club members' home where there were exhibits of their work. One of these clubs also used this time as a workshop and members worked on their hooked rugs.

Walters Club held a supper for their families which the club members prepared. This was followed by Bingo. The Rescue Club sponsored a community sing which was led by Mrs. A. R. Butler, Jr. They had exhibits of work done, not only by club members, but from all of the community members. Carrsville Club held a costume party at which folk games and singing were the main events.

### 3. 4-H Sponsorship

In communities where there are girls of 4-H age the home demonstration club sponsors the club. Leaders are usually members of the adult club. All of the clubs made donations to 4-H Camp Farrar.

### 4. Community Activities

The Carrollton Club started a drive to clean up the home grounds around Old St. Luke's Church. They also started a drive to beautify the mail boxes in their community. Neither of these activities have been completed as yet.

A group from the Rescue Club went to see the "Common Glory" at Williamsburg. This was enjoyed so much that the group plans to go to North Carolina to see "The Lost Colony" next year. This group had some sheets printed which were placed in the community building for everyone to use.

One club member who had learned to tuft bedspreads at the home demonstration club assisted the home economics teacher by teaching this to a class of 18 girls. She loaned her designs and equipment to the girls. Since this class made spreads three other classes

have started the same project.

V. 4-H Club

A. Project Work

1. Housekeeping

Fifty-two girls carried this project with twenty-nine completing. The groups took this during the winter months. One adult leader had been trained by Miss Ruth Jamison, house-furnishings leader. Some of the girls will follow this with the room improvement project.

2. Clothing Construction

"So You'd Like to Sew" was carried by six beginning 4-H girls and was completed by all of them.

The project "Make or Remake" was completed by 24 out of the 31 girls that carried this project. They made 68 new garments and remodeled 3 garments. Some of the girls sewed not only for themselves but assisted with the family sewing. One older 4-H girl served as leader.

3. Food Preservation

Two girls carried work in frozen foods and twelve carried work in canning. Six projects were completed. Two of the girls attended a meeting for 4-H girls to assist them in giving foods demonstrations. This was given by Miss Janet Cameron. They then gave a demonstration to their club. One J. leader assisted with this project.

4. Food Preparation

This project was started during the summer but will be continued during the winter. Six girls started this project, one of these girls also attended the demonstration given by Miss Janet Cameron, but moved from the county soon afterwards and was not able to give

a demonstration.

#### Other Activities

##### 1. Achievement Day

Exhibits and a dress review were the main attractions for the 4-H girls at the 4-H Achievement Day. Blue ribbons were awarded for the best exhibits for the day. The county medal for clothing achievement was awarded. Mr. Charles Lund, guest speaker from the Esso Company, gave a very inspiring address to the boys and girls. Thirty-five girls and mothers attended.

##### 2. Camp

4-H Camp Farrar was attended by 14 girls and one Jr. leader. Camp was very much enjoyed by the club members since again this year they had assisted in raising money for the camp. One of the girls from this county was elected governor of the colonies and another elected secretary of the commonwealth. These girls helped execute the camp program.

##### 3. 4-H Week

This was observed in the county by two window displays, posters and peep shows showing 4-H activities in the schools and news articles. One club—boys and girls—held a party hoping to interest more boys and girls in club work. The planning and other work was done by the club members themselves.

##### 4. Rural Life Sunday

Two of the preachers in the county made addresses to the boys and girls on this Sunday. Others made announcements on that day. Boys and girls were urged to attend church. News articles were printed.

5. 4-H Short Course

Three girls attended the Short Course held at Blacksburg. During this time one member was initiated into the All-Star Chapter.

6. "Green Promise"

The movie about 4-H work, the "Green Promise", was sponsored by the 4-H members. A small amount was received from the tickets sold by club members. The clubs made posters to advertise the movie and news articles were also written about the movie.

VI. Older Youth

VII. Scope of Work

	1948	1949
Number Home Demonstration Clubs or Groups...	9	9
Membership.....	320	220
No. 4-H Clubs.....	9	9
Membership.....	94	74
Number Older Youth Groups.....	-	-
Membership.....	-	-
No. other families reached.....	650	655
Total No. families reached.....	900	925

VIII. 1. County Board of Agriculture

This board has not been very active during the past year. They nominated the Superintendent for the Peanut Soil Conservation District. The board served as leaders on the county-wide "Fat Campaign".

2. County Home Demonstration Committee

This committee is composed of the presidents of the home demonstration clubs, chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and Federation Goal chairman. The secretary and treasurer have both served since the organization of this committee. The committee met quarterly to plan and check the

progress of the clubs.

This committee with the program development chairman set up the plan of work for 1950.

They also sent a delegate to the Institute of Rural Affairs at Blacksburg.

The committee which made plans for the yearbook was appointed from this committee. The books were presented by Camp Manufacturing Company.

### 3. 4-H County Council

The council met semi-annually for the purpose of planning 4-H work. The Council sets up the county goals and checks the progress of the clubs.

The council is composed of officers of all of the 4-H Clubs in the county from which the county officers are elected. Leaders of 4-H Clubs serve along with the agent as advisors.

### 4. U.S.D.A. Council

The council is composed of the agricultural teachers, P.M.A., soil conservationist, and Extension workers. The purpose of the council is to keep each agency informed about work being done in the other agencies.

### 5. Professional Workers

The professional workers in the county planned the "Fat Campaign". News articles, hand bills, letters were used to inform the county people. Announcement was also made at meetings and by leaders to individuals.

### 6. Extension Workers

The Extension workers in the county meet the first Tuesday of each month to help coordinate their work.

IV. Volunteer Leaders

The organizational leaders or club officers are elected by the club members. This is true of both the 4-H and adult clubs. The officers are responsible for the mechanics of club work in their community.

Project or subject matter leaders are asked to serve in the line of work for which they seem best suited. They are trained by the agent or specialist from Blacksburg. The project leaders have not given but 33 demonstrations to adult groups this year and five demonstrations to 4-H groups though they have given 200 talks to clubs. The agent felt that she needed to meet as many of the people as possible, having been here only a short time, so she has given most of the demonstrations.

Two Jr. Leaders served during the summer months as 4-H leaders. They served both as subject matter and organizational leaders. Both of these girls are "All-Stars" and one attended camp as leader.

Growth of Home Demonstration Club Project Leadership : 1948 : 1949

No. project leaders and goal chairmen.....	160	:	130
No. training meetings held: By specialist.....	7	:	2
By agent.....	1	:	1
Attendance at all training meetings.....	105	:	32
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present.....	29	:	25
No. club meetings in which leaders assisted.....	—	:	125
No. demonstrations given by leaders.....	49	:	33
No. talks or discussions by leaders.....	—	:	200

Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership : 1948 : 1949

No. adult project leaders.....	5	:	9
No. Junior project leaders.....	—	:	2
No. training meetings held: By specialist.....	—	:	2
By agent.....	1	:	—
Attendance at leader training meetings.....	7	:	6
No. 4-H leaders trained individually.....	—	:	2
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present.....	15	:	—
No. club meetings in which leaders assisted.....	—	:	25
No. demonstrations given: By leaders.....	76	:	5
By adult.....	—	:	3
By Junior.....	—	:	2

X. Through adult leadership and backing of 4-H Clubs by donations to 4-H Camp Farrar and other activities, the home demonstration clubs have shown that they realize the need and value of work with youth. By more publicity being given to 4-H Club activities such as, contests, camps, short courses, it is felt that more is known about 4-H work in the county.

Most of the homemakers feel that there is a great need for planned community recreation since nearly every club had some type of recreation on their community achievement days.

Since food costs are still so high the conservation of food by canning and freezing is still a very important issue to the homemaker and 4-H Club member who assists her mother. Homemakers are using commercial freezers and purchasing home freezers when it seems advisable. They are also striving to use their freezer locker space to better advantage by freezing not only fresh fruits, vegetables and meats, but prepared food as well.

By learning more about the principles of lighting and converting oil lamps which have been collecting dust for years, the homemaker has improved her home and possibly helped to conserve the sight of the family.

While the project work has helped to improve homemaking techniques, or to teach a new subject such as, rug making and converting lamps, the Federation Goal, "Art in Daily Living", has contributed much to rural living by stressing the aim: "To develop a love for country life through an appreciation of art in daily living". In this time when so many leave the country annually for the city, it is very worthwhile to help the rural people appreciate the country around them so that they will become better and happier citizens in that better world for which we are all working.