

VIRGINIA

HOME DEM. LEADER  
(Negro)

ANNUAL REPORT

1938

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
in  
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS  
State of Virginia  
1938

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
And State Agricultural College  
Cooperating

Extension Service  
Division of Cooperative Extension  
Washington, D. C.

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
Narrative of  
NEGRO HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

Date Dec. 22, 1938

Date \_\_\_\_\_

L. A. Jenkins  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Extension Director

Hampton Ag Dept  
Hampton

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**NARRATIVE REPORT  
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK  
1938  
SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES**

Twenty-seven years of work among the Negro farming people of Virginia has ended. Much has been done to lead larger numbers of them to understand and work towards better living conditions. This report lists improvements along various lines -- better homemaking, together with brief outlines for continuing similar work during 1939, for much still remains to be done in the eight counties employing Negro home demonstration agents. A list of the counties, with names and addresses of the agents, follows:

Amherst .....	Miss Rachel R. Carter Amherst
Bedford .....	Mrs. Youtha B. Flagg 1310 Taylor Street, Lynchburg
Halifax .....	Miss N. E. Jennings South Boston
Hanover .....	Miss Sadie M. Goode Ashland
King William .....	Miss Pennie E. Pitt West Point
Louisa .....	Miss Blanche D. Harrison Louisa
Nelson .....	Miss Earlene Brewer Shipman
Pittsylvania .....	Miss E. Alice Hobday Chatham

Here follows a list of counties visited and assisted by the district home demonstration agent:

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Albemarle    | 11. Greensville   |
| 2. Amelia       | 12. Henrico       |
| 3. Brunswick    | 13. Lunenburg     |
| 4. Buckingham   | 14. Mecklenburg   |
| 5. Campbell     | 15. Nottoway      |
| 6. Charles City | 16. Powhatan      |
| 7. Charlotte    | 17. Prince Edward |
| 8. Chesterfield | 18. Southampton   |
| 9. Essex        | 19. Surry         |
| 10. Gloucester  | 20. Sussex        |

The eight home agents divided their time in 1938 as follows: Days spent in the field 1602; in the office 703. Three agents devoted 13 days to the agricultural-conservation and adjustment programs. Four agents gave 17 days to relief work.

Every county has an advisory board made up of representatives of the local adult clubs. The eight boards have 254 members -- men and women. Eight 4-H Councils have 399 members, boys and girls who are officers in the local 4-H Clubs.

Extension work is conducted in 156 of the 289 communities in these counties where such work could profitably be established. Local leaders, men and women who assume responsibility for organizational or project work, occasionally both render valuable service. Fifty-nine men and 138 women serve voluntarily as club leaders. For the 4-H work the agents reported that 23 men; 134 women; 16 older boys, and 60 older girls were giving of their time and talents in leadership work. Adult home demonstration work was done by 1934 different individuals in 98 clubs.

Work among young people was conducted for 1126 boys and 2179 girls, a total of 3305 members in 133 clubs. About 80% of the boys--904, and 85% of the girls--1867, minus duplications, completed their project work. Among 4-H Club members 2631 were in school and 674 out of school. The agents reported 113 judging and 137 demonstration teams trained during the year. Six groups of older young people had a membership of 29 young men and 21 young women.

Home agents made 3884 visits to 2041 different homes in interest of various phases of extension work. They received 1548 office and 280 telephone calls; published 85 news stories; wrote 2391 individual letters; sent out 308 circular letters and distributed 9416 bulletins. Extension exhibits were shown on 106 occasions. Meetings held for training club leaders for various activities numbered 41 for adult work with 87 men and 235 women in attendance. For familiarizing 4-H Club leaders with approved methods for developing work with the younger people, 247 persons were in attendance at 49 meetings.

Method demonstration meetings held numbered 1167 with 12269 persons in attendance while 423 meetings were held at result demonstrations, attendance 3618. Twelve tours to see adult work were attended by 229 people; 4-H Club work was visited by 70 persons on

three occasions. Achievement Day programs in five counties drew 778 people; 196 other meetings of an extension nature accounted for 19859 people. Local leaders alone held 120 meetings for adults--attendance 1573 and 166 for juniors--attendance 2866. During this year 277 of the meetings just reported used the discussion group method of presentation.

#### SUMMARY OF EXTENSION IMPROVEMENTS FOR YEAR

The home agents reported that there are 8672 farms owned or operated by Negro farmers in the eight counties under discussion and that 3272 of these farm homes are profiting by changes in practices definitely due to the home demonstration program; 963 other homes have been definitely assisted; 1866 farms have been aided.

Four - K Club members come from 2186 farm homes and 576 from non-farm homes. Different farm families directly influenced number 4308 along with 1238 non-farm families reached by some definite phase of extension program or a total of 5547 families reached in 1938 by the eight county agents.

#### THE COUNTIES AND THEIR PEOPLE

Types of Virginia counties included in these eight counties, viz:

1. The mountain section -- Amherst, Bedford and Nelson.
2. The Piedmont section -- Halifax, Louisa
3. Southwest Virginia -- Pittsylvania
4. Tidewater Virginia -- King William
5. Hanover County, bordering Piedmont and Tidewater, is almost wholly agricultural.

The mountain counties produce apples in abundance, corn, tobacco, wheat, tomatoes, and peaches. Nelson County boasts mines and fine forests. Among the minerals listed are soapstone, rutile, krollin, iron, ore, copper, and manganese. In sections of Bedford and Amherst counties near Lynchburg, market gardening is done on a small scale. It is also reported that the influence of the home agents in Nelson County is responsible for an increased interest in poultry.

Halifax and Pittsylvania counties reported that tobacco is their main source of income. Both of these reports mentioned the types of homes commonly found in the counties. In Pittsylvania the log cabin, the typical house of the county, is being changed from a house to a home and the women in these homes are becoming homemakers rather than housekeepers.

The Halifax report states that a large per cent of the inhabitants occupy frame houses with an average of three rooms fairly well furnished. This agent feels that at least 50% of the improvements on and the upkeep of these homes are results of home demonstration

work of long standing in the county. The following statement taken from the Halifax report is very expressive: "The willingness on the part of the people to work in community groups, to study and improve conditions pertaining to food production, preparation, and preservation, better houses and house furniture, adequate supply of comfortable clothing, and recreation are high tributes which must be attributed to home demonstration work."

See county home agents' narratives for further information regarding the people of these counties. The above statements are typical.

#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF WORK

Counties are divided into magisterial districts. Each district chooses a citizen to represent it in the county governing body -- the Board of Supervisors. This board directs the handling of county funds. In each of the eight counties the board contributes the necessary local aid towards the salary of the home demonstration agent.

The Louisa County Board of Supervisors paid \$120 per year towards the agent's salary, paid office rent of \$36 per year and beginning July 1, 1938, without any outside pressure whatever, made an increase of \$2.50 per month which now makes a total of \$150 per year toward agent's salary and also continued office rent. Recently the Board voted to pay the wood bill for the office, which bill has previously been paid personally by agent.

#### ADULT WORK

##### County Advisory Boards

The County Advisory Boards in Virginia seem to be assuming more and more active duties in the conduct of the extension program. Every agent reported regular meetings, two per year to five per year. Our boards are made up of men and women because we feel that by working together in this way both will develop a more sympathetic view of the real needs of the home and community. Attention is called to the county narrative reports for a more detailed account of the work of these advisory boards. The instance cited below is typical of the rest:

##### LOUISA COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

The County Advisory Board is the local organization sponsoring cooperative extension work and consists of forty-seven members. These members are officers of organized groups who meet

quarterly to plan or check with the agent for making and conducting the program of work. Regular meetings were held in December, March, June, and September. The program of work for 1938 was as follows:

1. Hold quarterly meetings
2. Foster State Community Improvement Contest
3. Hold a County Farmers' Conference or cooperate with extension officials in plans presented for an extension school
4. Send two delegates with the agent to the Negro State Advisory Board
5. Sponsor attendance at the Negro State Farmers' Conference in April.

The board succeeded in carrying out that part of its program within its power. Quarterly meetings were held in months designated. The board stimulated efforts by offering a prize to the communities making the highest score in improvements according to the official score card. Three special contest communities were enrolled in the state contest. A county tour to see improvements was also sponsored. The third point on the program could not be carried out this year. Two delegates and the agent attended the Negro State Advisory Board meeting with expenses paid by the board.

A Ways and Means Committee was appointed to assist with plans for attendance at the State Farmers' Conference held at Virginia State College in April. This committee paid for printing to advertise this conference. Besides this the board assisted in Achievement Day and picnic expenses, continued the livestock committee connected with the board, and decided to give the prize pig to the demonstrator who had carefully raised it for the board.

Emphasis was again placed upon cooperative efforts among organized groups. Cooperation was given to health programs, to Negro Health Week, and road-side improvement encouraged. Ten dollars was appropriated to the County Tuberculosis Auxiliary and three dollars to the Negro Organization Society of Virginia. The sum of \$4.50 was awarded as prizes to adult clubs on the 1937 program.

#### COMMUNITY CLUBS

Community Clubs are composed of men and women. These clubs are concerned directly with problems of community-wide interest, such as land ownership, production of sufficient food and feed to supply community needs, arousing interest in painting every home, if possible, sanitary toilets for every home, seeing that all young people of club age enroll in 4-H work, if not in Smith-Hughes work, and complete work undertaken.

Community clubs are also concerned with seeing that all children of school age attend school.

The community clubs are governed largely by the rules laid down by the State Advisory Board as practically all clubs, sooner or

later, enter the Community Improvement Contest sponsored annually by the State Advisory Board. In order that the whole family shall receive due recognition and encouragement, the scoring committee of five community persons must include a boy and a girl, older 4-H Club members preferred.

Other community interests worked on were beautification of school grounds, church yards, and cemeteries.

The Hanover report lists typical community club activities:

#### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

This year through the County Advisory Board ten community clubs were organized; three communities enrolled in the State Community Improvement Contest -- Wickham, Pleasant Grove, and Bethany -- one in each district. Since the first score four sanitary toilets have been built, one home painted, and five persons enrolled in club work. In the six other communities toilets have been built, homes remodeled and built, homes painted, and club enrollment increased.

Last year Wickham Community Club members worked very faithfully to secure a bridge across the creek near the church and school. Because of the hours and days of steady thinking and planning, the community has supported this project and the county has built a bridge, making it more convenient for travel.

#### HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUBS

The King William report made the following statement in regard to home demonstration clubs: A Club is organized wherever a group of women wishes to work together to improve home conditions through method and result demonstrations and frequent exchange of ideas towards securing happiness, health, and an improved standard of living. Two women are selected from the home demonstration club in each community to represent the club on the county advisory board and to assist in planning the program of work for the county.

Another county sends the president and two other members to represent the club on the county board. The majority of the counties send three elected members from the local Home Demonstration Club to the County Advisory Board to share in the making of county plans. The Louisa report shows that the clubs select one subject for major emphasis throughout the year and the agent, with leaders' assistance, attempts to give at least six demonstrations on the selected subjects. Work along other lines is given to individual groups as they desire. The subjects for these are chosen at the

beginning of the year. The Bedford agent wrote that as soon as the plan of work for the year is made, the women begin work on major and minor work. Discussions, singing contests, games, and an occasional party, serve to keep up interest in attending club meetings.

Home demonstration work is being done in ninety-eight adult clubs exclusive of the eight County Advisory Boards.

SCOPE OF WORK

Census figures indicate that 10240 Negro homemakers live in the counties served by our home demonstration agents. Of this number the agents reported that they are reaching 2400 people directly and 4381, indirectly. The enrollment for the past three years follows:

Year	No. Clubs	Membership	No. reached indirectly
1936	81	1717	2996
1937	89	1724	2960
1938	93	1867	4196

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK BY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS

<u>Name of County</u>	<u>Name of District</u>	<u>No. Clubs in District</u>
Asheurst	: Court House	: 3
	: Elon	: 2
	: Pedlar	: 2
	: Temperance	: 2
Bedford	: Bellevue	: 2
	: Charlemont	: 1
	: Chamblissburg	: ---
	: Center	: 2
	: Forest	: 6
	: Otter	: 1
	: Lisbon	: ---
: Staunton	: 1	
Halifax	: Banister	: 3
	: Birch Creek	: 3
	: Black Walnut	: 2
	: Meadville	: 2
	: Mt. Carmel	: ---
	: Red Bank	: 1
	: Roanoke	: 3
	: Staunton	: 1
Hanover	: Ashland	: 6
	: Beaver Dam	: 4
	: Henry	: 3
King William	: West Point	: 2
	: Mangohick	: 2
	: Acquinton	: 2
Louisa	: Green Springs	: 2
	: Louisa Court House	: 3
	: Mineral	: 1
	: Cuckoo	: 4
	: Jackson	: 2
Nelson	: Massies Mill	: 3
	: Rockfish	: 4
	: Lovington	: 7
	: Schuyler	: ---
Pittsylvania	: Banister River	: 5
	: Callands	: 1
	: Chatham	: 1
	: Dan River	: 3

Continued  
Pittsylvania

	<u>Name of District</u>	<u>No. Clubs in District</u>
	<u>PLG</u>	<u>—</u>
	Stanton	2
	Funstall	—
	:	:
	:	:
	:	:
	:	:
	:	:
	:	:

PROJECT HOME

Six counties -- Bedford, Halifax, King William, Louisa, Nelson, and Pittsylvania -- did their major work in home improvement with emphasis on home management and house furnishings. Each report listed definite reasons for this selection. The Bedford report called attention to the club women's desire for better housing in order to secure more comfortable and convenient living conditions. In developing the work through the year certain points have been discussed such as house furnishings, accessories, and the condition of the house and grounds as an index to the character of the occupants of the home. Disorderly surroundings have a bad influence upon the minds of growing children, since young children take their homes as models. What they see in childhood tends to fix their standards for life. Hence, neat orderly homes have, and rightly so, an integral part in every county club program.

With these thoughts in mind each club member was asked to make a survey of her own home and discuss in her club meeting some of the changes she thought should be made and what she could do to bring about the needed changes. Here are some of the findings:

1. Rooms over crowded with furniture and accessories
  2. Insufficient thought given to walls and woodwork
  3. Lack of color in rooms
  4. Improper window treatment
  5. Poor lighting which was causing eye strain and contributing to accidents
  6. Improper selection and hanging of pictures
  7. Steps that were broken or that had bad turns -- another contributing cause of accidents
  8. Step ladders needed to prevent standing on weak chairs or boxes
  9. The need of medicine cases
  10. Little thought given to comfortable beds and presentable wood boxes
  11. Lack of good stoves and refrigerators
  12. Lack of running water in homes
- Reports show that some of all the things listed here and many other improvements were made in different homes in the county.

The Halifax report gives an interesting account of the work in the county:

The practice of the soil building program in the county created quite an unusual situation in the home conditions of many tenant families. Incomes on the soil building crops supplanted the tenant and forced him into houses which in many cases were too small and uncomfortable both for health and decency. To help these families adjust themselves and to gain a more satisfactory standard of living was a challenge to the extension workers over the county. In January contact was made with every member of the County Planning Board, as a meeting at this time was nearly impossible. A favorable decision was made to conduct demonstration houses to show possibilities of equipping these unoccupied tenant houses at low cost. We received wonderful cooperation from local lumber companies, grocers, and department stores who gave deductions in materials needed.

Work on three houses advanced as follows: The walls were boarded up with plain paper, boxes to be wall papered, one house was papered, window sashes and lights put in, floors stained, and furniture of boxes and cheap lumber was made. Three bedspreads were made and curtains for all the windows. In the process of equipping these houses we found that more money would be needed than the clubs had on hand, thus this project is being carried over into the 1939 program.

Individual accomplishments in this line are fairly well on the way to a satisfactory end. In Hickory Grove Community two new homes were built among club families. Benefit checks and men in each family being able to do much of the work made these buildings possible. The county total of new homes is five, while eight were painted and one remodeled. Twenty-four families made some improvements in their kitchens including painting walls, building woodboxes, hanging better curtains, building in cabinets, building drawers in tables for knives and forks, attaching knife and fork holders on walls, and making kitchen stools.

Thirty three families made twenty one articles for home convenience at a cost of \$7.75.

In previous years numerous questions have come to the agent concerning treatment of old furniture, "I have a good chair or table but the paint is coming off", or "It's scratched", or "I set the iron on my perfectly good table". "Can anything be done to remove the scar?" To meet this demand "My Furniture Takes on New Life" was emphasized. The agent carried five club leaders representing six

clubs to a demonstration meeting in Chatham. This demonstration in refinishing furniture was given by Miss Hamilton who showed three methods of refinishing furniture with varnish stain, paint, and oil. A very great need of the county homes was met in this demonstration and it was in this line that the leaders rendered an excellent bit of service. Each leader came back home and gave the demonstration in her club and two conducted the same work in four other clubs. As a result 149 pieces of furniture were refinished, 27 refinished and upholstered at a total saving of \$189.

#### CLOTHING WORK

Amherst and Hanover women chose clothing for their main work during 1938, with the following results:

Clothing was the Amherst major project for 1938. The work this year dealt mainly with the proper selection and construction of garments. In order to cut down expenses cotton bags such as are used for flour, meal, salt, sugar, and feed were used. Demonstrations were given by the agent and members on how to remove the printing and how to bleach the bags. Leaflets on "Sewing with Cotton Bags" were used. Inexpensive patterns were secured and used for bag and other garments for both women and children. With the use of dye, bias tape, and a few decorative stitches, many practical garments and articles for the home were made. Through a conference with the state clothing specialist and with suggestive materials furnished by the specialist, more and better work was accomplished.

All Hanover home demonstration clubs chose clothing as the major project this year. Demonstrations and discussions of such subjects as Planning the Family Dollar, Buymanship, and How to Make More Satisfying Purchases were important parts of the clubs' programs. Members in nine clubs followed the clothing program and as a result improvements were observed at the county exhibit and in the appearance of the members at the club meetings. There have been improvements in buying suitable materials and colors for various types of figures. Each homemaker has made an article and exhibited in club or at exhibit this year as her project work. The members have begun to feel that satisfaction and freedom which proper clothing selection gives to good homemakers and housekeepers. Six of the clubs have bought materials and made dresses, underwear, and children's clothes. Clothing accounts were kept by several members in the county.

#### MINOR PROJECTS

Work done in minors included food preservation, flower and vegetable growing, yard beautification, poultry, food preparation, child care, health and sanitation. Counties majoring in clothing had home improvement as a minor and accomplished good work along this line.

A similar statement would be true about clothing work done by women who worked at home improvement as their major. The Bedford agent emphasized the need of adequate canning equipment and supplies prior to the canning season, as food preservation was the leading minor project in that and the other seven counties. Again this year the Ball representative spent two months in the state assisting club women with canning problems.

Louisa reported that food preservation is the principal minor project. The report continues: Work along this line is done each year to assist in feeding the family. At the beginning of each organized group was asked to extend the work by assisting families in any way possible to use better practices in raising and saving more food. A demonstration in canning was given by the Ball Brothers' representative during April. A new group was reached by this demonstration and families saved vegetables that up to this time were wasted. Canning budgets were made during the winter by fifty-four families who carried them out in part. Saved by different club members were 16,071 quarts of fruits and other canned foods valued at \$3123.45.

Pittsylvania reported that one club purchased a pressure canner and conducted a number of canning days for interested homemakers in the community.

#### FOOD PREPARATION

Special efforts have been made to assist club women in preparing new (to them) vegetables grown in their gardens, so that the families might benefit by them. Women were also taught correct table service through the use of simple but attractive table linens, attractively laid tables, and suitable dishes. Extension work has certainly made many women conscious of the need of a modest supply of pretty dishes and glassware, appropriate table linens, and adequate silver to lay the table properly. Much time is given to the discussion of table manners. Some of the results are seen in better packed school lunches as well as better meals in the home, the growing consciousness of the types of foods needed for corrective feeding, and the tendency to serve better balanced meals.

#### GARDENS

More and more farm people seem to be waking up to the need of giving better care to the family garden practically throughout the year. The King William report calls attention to this fact: Numerous farm families put forth special efforts to produce larger amounts of food for a longer period as a result of the home demonstration clubs working in their communities.. In three neighborhoods where an active part was taken in the community improvement contest,

Hanover County



Collards in Garden Project

the year round gardens were increased from a total of two to six. Other families in the same communities grew a total of five vegetables that they had not grown before."

All agents have expressed thanks for help received from the garden letters sent out from the state garden specialist and from bulletin written and distributed by the Hampton Institute garden specialist.

All Nelson County adult clubs did special work on better gardens. The state garden letters were sent out to club leaders for distribution. The agent distributed some of these letters in her travel. The garden bulletins secured by the district agent from the Agricultural Department of Hampton Institute were given to club leaders to be used in discussions in at least one meeting. The increase in canning is felt to be materially due to the special drive in gardening. A result demonstration was held in one community at a fall garden in which was found turnips, cabbage, collards, okra, green peas, beets, and tomatoes.

The Bedford report states: "Reports show that the well planned and well kept gardens easily supply the family table with a hundred dollars worth of vegetables every year."

Halifax County states: Better garden work was carried on this year than last year even though the season was not altogether as favorable for year round production. The Advisory Board afforded a means of motivation on the part of club and non-club members to better gardening. This board offered \$1.50 worth of seeds to the banner garden district and \$1.50 worth to the individual with the best garden to extend over the longest season of the year. Roanoke was the winning district. The individual winner had twenty-two varieties of vegetables. In the county now we have fifty families with fall gardens, and approximately seventy-five with collards, cabbage, and turnip greens.

#### BEAUTIFICATION WORK

Club members in every county did more or less work on this project. The King William report says that the improvement of home grounds was a definite part of all home demonstration club programs. "With the assistance of club leaders demonstrations were given in laying walks, planting shrubs and trees, and preparing ground for the planting of grass. The study of annual and perennial flowers resulted in the planting of definite flower yards. Larger varieties were also grown."

Hanover County has continued its interest in more beautiful surroundings over a period of years. Results are shown by the improvements made about farms, schools, and churches in the form of

Hanover County



Flowers in Ebenezer Community

better walks, drives, fences, shrubbery, grass, and flowers. The Hampton Institute landscape specialist visited three communities and gave plans and instructions for grading yards and planting shrubbery, grass, and greater varieties of flowers. Since his visit four yards have been improved.

The president of the County Advisory Board has taken a great deal of interest in home beautification in his community and has encouraged five members to rearrange their shrubbery and make their surroundings attractive and satisfying. He has also assisted in getting persons in his community to help in leveling the church yard and following the landscape artist's instructions for next spring.

Yard beautification was actively carried as a minor project in six communities in Halifax County, reaching 116 individuals. Four of these completed their plans and twelve other club members visited the demonstration with the idea of carrying out any part of the plan that would best suit their yards.

#### POULTRY

More and more extension agents are seeking to convince the farm woman of the financial possibilities of a well cared for healthy flock of poultry. The Louisa report expresses what is being done generally: Poultry is another project always taken by some club women as a part of their club work at the beginning of the year. The standard was set for each family to have 12 or more good hens. This was to enable the members to carry what birds they could comfortably house, feed, and otherwise care for. The process of building up flocks was in process during the year. The model poultry house exhibited during the winter along with discussions of poultry house equipment and care of poultry caused the poultry houses to be erected according to extension standards. Ten families followed recommendations in rearing, feeding, and culling; four other families made improvements to houses already built.

Each adult club in Hanover has done work on this project. Demonstrations were given on culling flock, remodeling poultry houses, chicken rearing, and feeding. Better breeds of poultry is being raised for home and market use. Three community club members have poultry farms and their chief source of income is received from this type of farm production.

The large number of families in King William County without poultry was discussed at advisory board meetings by members from all communities. Suggestions given families in these communities along the line of purchasing and producing chicks were accepted, and seventeen homes which formerly had no flocks now have sufficient chickens for their needs.

### HOME HEALTH AND SANITATION

Home demonstration agents worked on health problems in 122 communities. This effort included the screening against flies and mosquitoes, general clean up of home and civic center grounds to get rid of breeding places for flies and mosquitoes, getting people to take health examinations, to adopt better home nursing practices, and to improve health habits. Much of the health work, however, was reported under campaigns.

Recommendations to control flies were followed in King William County and special efforts to clean up all refuse piles made in all communities cooperating with the extension program. Five young mothers accepted plans for feeding babies and made special efforts to can food to meet their needs. The annual Red Cross Roll Call and the selling of Christmas seals is supported by all clubs. One hundred and fifty homes were reported partially screened as a result of the "A Screen for Every Window Campaign".

A health week campaign was sponsored by clubs throughout Hanover County. Home, church, and school yards were cleaned and surroundings made more presentable; outhouses white washed and rubbish disposed of. Club members have followed recommendations on screening, controlling insects, and adopting better home-nursing procedures. The Club members, leaders and agent assisted in selling Christmas seals and cooperated with county nurse in checking living conditions among members and cooperators. All adult clubs cooperated with the Health Department in giving canned food for hot school lunches for underweights.

### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Mention has already been made of the work of the community improvement clubs on page five. Other community-wide activities are mentioned in the agents' reports such as community socials, community sings, and putting up foods for school lunches. Attention is called to the individual county narrative reports for complete details of community activities.

The community project for Coolwell Community in Asherst County was to help with the school lunch. The work was under the special supervision of the W. P. A. The women in the community had to supplement the provisions furnished in order to make it possible to serve every child. Thirty-two children were fed. The project has been continued for the 1938-1939 term. A Baby Contest was held to raise funds for the project. The women also did some canning for this purpose.

Hanover County



Participants in Baby Contest Sponsored by Adult Leaders

During the month of March the Amherst Home Demonstration Club raised funds for the purpose of helping to repair the road leading to the county training school. This road was not passable in rainy weather. Through the club the road was put in good condition. Now the buses can be driven up to the building. Before this the children were loaded on and off on the highway, which made it extremely dangerous.

As a community project the Clifford Club helped to lay a cement walk leading to the church. Funds for this purpose were raised through a Baby Contest.

The enrollment of the Coleman Falls Home Demonstration Club in Bedford County is thirty-two. The problem in this community was a place to hold club meetings, as the club had outgrown most of the homes. In looking around for a place some one suggested getting permission to use one room of the school, but the club members wanted a place that they might fit up as a demonstration room over a period of years. About six years ago a new church was built in this community and the old one was used as a meeting hall. The club members were given permission to use this building as long as they wished. At once they began to make improvements. A day was set and they all came out with brooms, pails, soap, and scrubbing brushes and gave their club room a thorough cleaning. Window panes have been put in, benches remodeled, new unbleached curtains were made and hung at the windows, and the yard was mowed. Two tables and an oil stove have been donated. Early in the spring it was suggested that a club dinner be served the last of June. It was also suggested that everything served at this dinner would be gathered from the members' gardens or taken from their pantry shelves. The following menu was planned: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, creamed carrots, scalloped tomatoes, string beans, peach ice cream, and cake. The room was decorated and the committee saw to it that the best silver, dishes, and white table cloths were used. In fact, real demonstrations were given in "Food selection and Preparation", and in table setting and service. An informal program was rendered and every one present took part in it. They all agreed that they could have lots of fun in their own community by singing songs, playing games, and putting on stunts.

A similar problem was found in Forest Community. This club has a membership of twenty-six. Five new members were enrolled this year. A small one-room cottage that is centrally located has been leased for two years at a small sum. The club members were so anxious for a club room that they started at once



Hanover County

Home changed  
from one story to  
two stories, and  
a bathroom installed.



to make improvements. Window panes were put in and windows were screened. New locks have been put on the doors and the already brushed walls have been papered. Eight chairs and a table have been donated and the room is beginning to take on new life. The Community, Home Demonstration and 4-H clubs all meet in this club room and they share with paying the rent.

### PROJECT LEADERSHIP

#### A. Plan for Training and Use of Leaders

Agents seemed more conscious this year than ever before in regard to definite leader-training work. The day spent by the home improvement specialist with agents and leaders from Halifax and Pittsylvania was most helpful and could be repeated with profit in every county. All agents assisted the leaders with demonstration problems with varying degrees of success. It appears, however, that results seemed to have been where leaders were privileged to receive enough help to give them confidence in themselves.

Pittsylvania held three leader-training meetings. The first was devoted largely to the discussion of the following topics:

1. When and where leader-training meetings should be held.
2. Program for leader-training meetings
3. Responsibility of each leader

The state home improvement specialist was present in the second meeting and gave a demonstration on refinishing furniture. Later the agent and leaders repeated the demonstration in the clubs.

#### Project Leadership in Louisa County

At the beginning of the year it was planned to hold four leader-training meetings during the year and to reach all leaders through these meetings for instructions in conducting the work. Because of the inconvenience of travel, the various abilities, and many limitations of leaders available, it was decided by the agent to divide the home demonstration clubs into three groups of four clubs each, and to hold meetings for each group separately at three different times during the year for project instructions. Although this was known to have many disadvantages, it was attempted and conducted as planned. The subject for project instruction was "The Country Home in Good Taste". Demonstrations were adapted to suit needs. Discussions brought out many interesting points on the various subjects. Each group was organized with its own chairman and secretary. Meetings were held in homes of local leaders from 10:30 to 3:00 P. M. Lunch was brought and spread and contributions toward lunch always added by

the hostess. Such good times were had in these leaders' meetings that only very urgent affairs kept leaders away. Four leaders have walked from three to five miles to reach meetings and in most cases were on time. Attendance for the first group of twelve clubs was twenty-five leaders representing ten clubs. Meetings were held in March, May, and October as leaders could arrange to be present at such times. Minutes were taken by the secretary in each group and were used as a review in the next meeting for that group. One group did not meet in May because of a rain storm and walking was impossible. However, the agent met one leader. Only one club was absent from the meetings in October.

This was the first attempt to conduct leader-training by sections, but leaders began to see how they might use the project instructions and pass them on through their clubs.

### B. RESULTS OBTAINED

Pittsylvania: "There has been a decided increase in the interest shown by club leaders in the results obtained from extension activities. Leaders are concerned about quality as well as quantity of work done by club members. Leadership-training meetings, one of which was given by the district agent, contributed largely to this interest."

The Louisa report stated that every leader expressed the desire to first try the demonstration or idea presented on herself. In some instances it got no further. However, leaders held twenty-five meetings, devoted twenty-nine days to the work, and gave thirty demonstrations. A finer spirit of fellowship was created as a result of this leadership work. These three groups assisted in planning and conducting tours to see improvement work done by club members.

Hanover club members have organized a home demonstration Mothers' Club which meets twice a month. In these meetings instructions are given on making children's garments and the proper feeding of children.

### CAMPAIGNS

#### A. Clean-up Campaign

All agents joined in the general spring clean-up campaign sponsored by the Negro Health Week Committee. Health talks

were made in schools, churches, and other public gatherings. During the Halifax campaign, mail boxes in five communities were improved for convenience of the carrier, seven of these boxes were painted satisfactorily, seventeen homes were white washed inside and outside.

#### B. Red Cross Work

The home agents assisted with the sale of Red Cross seals in every county.

#### C. County Health Departments

Home agents worked with state and county health departments as was mentioned under Home Health and Sanitation.

The Pittsylvania agent has charge of a loan set of articles consisting of a wheel chair, bedpan, and linens -- the property of an organization of white women of the county. Cooperation with county health campaigns conducted by the State Board of Health was continued in every county. Assistance was given the county nurses when necessary.

#### INCOME EARNINGS

##### Nelson County:

Assistance in the sale of produce from gardens and sewing was given by the agent. One girl was recommended to do general house work in New Rochelle, New York. Material on use of modern equipment and detailed recipes with outline for meal planning was sent the girl for six months. One girl, also, was assisted in getting a job in the Lovington Tearoom. One boy was recommended and assisted in getting appointed to the C. C. C. Camp.

##### Louisa County:

Women have continued to help with the family expenses by the sale of milk, butter, and eggs, occasionally vegetables, a little fruit, and chickens. Seasons have been against the late vegetables, however. One member raised pigs valued at \$34. from the prize pig turned over to her by the County Advisory Board. She sold five pigs for \$22.50 and bought sheet rock for the walls of her hall which was badly in need of improvement. Another member, a cripple, makes a knitted bedspread each year to pay taxes of help with her project work. The large spread this

year was sold for \$75. Sheet rock was bought with a part of this for room improvement to a room that had never been completed.

#### King William County:

Three members in two communities increased their income earnings by cleaning garments of families in their respective communities. Virginia bulletins on methods of dry cleaning garments advised members in a very helpful way in doing this work.

#### Bedford County:

Some sections of Bedford County are so mountainous that farming cannot be done on a large scale. In these places the men and women are employed in the mills and gardening.

Demonstrations in grading and arranging products attractively were given the women of this county. The importance of cleanliness, courtesy, and neatness of persons selling was also emphasized.

Seven club women from Coleman Falls Community sell regularly on the Lynchburg curb market. They not only sell vegetables, poultry, eggs, and fruit, but they find ready sales for wild flowers and shrubbery which they find growing in the mountains. Their reports show that they made \$975.50 from sales this year. The largest yearly sale from any one woman was 198.75. The money made on the market was used to purchase labor saving equipment and house furnishings.

#### RECREATION

Extension agents and club members are gradually making successful efforts to include more recreation in club programs. The Pittsylvania worker feels that definite progress has been made in home recreation. Two clubs in that county put on a home-made game exhibit which brought to the attention of the visitors that parents and children should share their leisure time with each other. A part of Pittsylvania's club time is always spent in singing.

During the year three clubs presented plays.

The Halifax report mentions the use of the Handbook for Recreation Leaders put out by the U. S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, as being much used in recreational work in that county.

Sociale were encouraged among adult groups in Louisa as all activities are benefits entailing work for lodges, churches, or school. During the Christmas holidays two adult clubs

held a social in the home of a leader. The members and families, numbering twenty-two adults and seven children, spent the evening from seven to ten-thirty playing games and socializing. Refreshments were prepared and served by committees appointed from the two clubs. A marble board game, "Fox and geese," of extension origin in the county, was played as a tournament and prizes awarded. Songs and cheers closed the social. The "fox and geese" was introduced in the W. P. A. adult class through a leader two years ago. One member has made and sold more than 350 of these boards, averaging twenty-five to thirty cents a piece for them — incidentally, the man is a cripple. Another community held social night at the church community house during January with eighty persons attending. Community and quartet singing were the main features. The adult club held their picnic in June with the 4-H group. Ice cream was served by the adults to all clubs. Games were the source of entertainment for the day.

Since Bedford adult club members have learned to plan their work, they now have some leisure time. The great question is: "How shall I spend it?" One answer is this: Devote some of the time to wholesome play. Too long adults in the rural sections have felt that all games and songs were harmful and that when one has grown up he is too old to plan to have fun by playing games. The "Virginia Reel" is the favorite with "Jolly is the Miller" a close second.

Efforts are still being made to purchase a place for a recreational center.

Efforts are still being made and funds are being raised for community recreation centers in three counties; Bedford, Hanover, and Nelson counties. The house in Nelson is being used though it is not yet fully equipped. The Hanover report says that they have a portion of the money in hand and that every club member will be asked to join the Every - Member - to - Give - a - Dollar Campaign to be staged in the spring of 1939. Adult and 4-H members will use the same building for recreational purposes.

#### COUNTY MEETINGS

County meetings held included picnics in four counties, a Country Life Festival in Halifax; flower shows in Louisa and Hanover; a mass meeting in Pittsylvania. At each flower show a specialist from Hampton Institute was present and gave useful information for flower culture, good arrangements, and suitability of containers for cut flowers. His demonstrations, with exhibits from the show, were very enthusiastically received.

On Friday night, November 18, the Halifax County Advisory Board sponsored a County Life Festival for the farmers and cooperators in the county. One hundred and seventeen individuals attended the affair, which was called to order at 8:00 P. M.

by the president of the Board. Family Budgeting was the theme of the discussion, which was opened by the county agent of Campbell County, who very ably and humorously brought out the man's responsibility in making the family budget. The county home economics teacher and the agent discussed the woman's responsibility in the absence of the district home agent. The group engaged in quiet games for thirty minutes, then circle and line games including "Green Sleeves" and the "Virginia Reel" consumed the next half hour. It was very amusing to note the enthusiasm with which the older people played. A repast of sandwiches, hot cocoa, and after-dinner mints was served.

#### Forest Home Demonstration Club Banquet

The Forest Home Demonstration Club members entertained their husbands and friends at a banquet, December 30, at the home of Mrs. Clemont. A program which was made up of Christmas carols and the story of "The Other Wise Man", games and short talks by visitors, was given. A large Christmas tree laden with presents for each club member stood in a corner of the room. A delicious supper was served.

#### COUNTY FAIRS

Club members exhibited at the regular county fairs in Amherst, Bedford, Halifax, and Pittsylvania counties. The other four counties held splendid educational exhibits. The chance to display work done by club members in this manner serves to call the attention of the whole county to the type of work being done by club members and provides an opportunity for our people to receive the benefit of some of the money which they spend at the county fairs, as small amounts in cash prizes are awarded.

#### ACHIEVEMENT DAYS

Achievement days, like other extension activities, vary in success according to the interest displayed by agents and leaders in the respective counties. Some counties find it difficult to secure county-wide representation on Achievement Day programs. Nelson County was able to practically fill the three-room school building in which the program was held, in spite of the fact that a heavy foggy rain made driving very difficult. Attention is called to the narrative reports of Hanover and Logan counties for details of the day in those counties. The following instances are cited:

Achievement Day was held at Arrington, Nelson County, Virginia, jointly with the 4-H groups, November 5. An exhibit was held showing home improvement articles, clothing canning, and farm products. Two demonstrations were given at which time the making of mayonnaise dressing and inexpensive home-made Christmas gifts. The former was given by a 4-H Club member and the latter by the white local home agent. The Farm Security Administration representative explained the four different types of farm programs available for farmers' use. A soil conservation talk was given by the local farm agent. Better food supply and home conditions were urged by the district agent. An outdoor fireplace built by the Arrington 4-H Club boys was exhibited at this meeting. Attending this program were 119 persons of the county.

Home Demonstration clubs in King William held their first joint achievement program this year. The program provided an opportunity for an interpretation of objectives in extension work and for an evaluation of results. Reports were made by club leaders of their clubs' years' work. These reports were supplemented by exhibits of canned food, handicraft articles, clothing, homemade equipment, fresh and dried garden vegetables. Prizes were awarded for all achievements won during the year.

#### TOURS

Especially interesting is the description given by the Louisa agent telling what careful planning and cooperative work all through the year can accomplish.

Tours planned in group leaders meetings and fostered by the Louisa County Advisory Board were held during August. The home demonstration tour planned for visiting some of the homes in Louisa and Green Springs Districts was conducted on Tuesday, August 2. A group of six cars met at Louisa School to begin the tour at 9:00 a.m. Two cars joined the group a short time later, making eight cars on most of the tour. Five of these completed the trip rounding fifty-one miles to the last stop where a picnic was held. Here others joined the group and a short program closed the day. Twenty homes were scheduled; nineteen of these were seen. Home makers in fifteen homes showed some inside as well as outside improvements for 1938. Among these were improvements on home grounds, painted homes, new homes, sanitary pump, improved porches, and many inside improvements. Specially invited visitors were district agents and local pastors. They commended the group during the picnic, held at the end of the tour, for the many painted homes, the well kept lawns and premises visited, and urged owners to keep them so and continue to beautify. Home makers were also commended for their cooperative work in making the effort a success. On

Thursday, the 25th, a group of seven cars met in Apple Grove Community shortly after nine o'clock to begin a tour planned to see improvements in some of the homes in Mineral, Oakree, and Jackson districts. Twenty-five homes were listed; twenty-three of these were seen. Twenty-two homes or yards were visited. Eleven homes were inspected for special demonstrations within and without. Eleven other homes were inspected for outside demonstrations and improvements. One special demonstration was a papering demonstration for room improvement in a bedroom. A demonstration in using orange crates was also made in another home. One home had a complete water system that was installed in June 1939. This is a barrel system with arrangements for hot and cold water and a complete bathroom. Seven cars completed the second tour of fifty-three miles visiting twenty two homes or grounds in eight different communities of the three districts named. Many improvements were seen such as painted houses, new porches, and screening, rebuilt porches, pantries and other inside painting and improvements. Flower gardens and yard improvements were much in evidence. This tour ended with a picnic in Mount Hope Community. The Home Demonstration Club of Mt. Hope brought contributions to add to the lunches brought by those on the tour. Melons were given enroute and the duty, hungry group were much refreshed after the repeat. Club songs were sung under the direction of the leader's group chairman. After this a summary of things seen in each community was given by seven different leaders. Remarks by the agent closed the tour with expressions from many of this group that it was a day well spent.

#### STATE FARMERS' CONFERENCE

Virginia State College conducts a conference each spring for the benefit of the Negro farmers of the state. The program is supervised by the field agent of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, assisted by the Virginia district, farm, and home agents. The list of speakers always includes state and federal agricultural officials. The program is designed to acquaint farmers with that the government has to offer them, through the college, to assist them with better farming operations, and to give them first-hand information about the various and varying federal farm activities. Another very special aim of this conference is to encourage better livestock among Negro farmers. Prizes offered counties for large and prompt attendance consist entirely of young livestock to be developed for breeding purposes back on the farms.

A prize pig was won by Pittsylvania County.

State Director of Extension Mark John E. Hutcheson expressed a desire to see all farm people living comfortably, with

running water and other conveniences. Other views expressed by the director indicated that unless a farmer left a farm better than he found it, he had been a poor farmer, indeed, and that all farmers should join in the fight against erosion.

The conference is a great source of inspiration back home in the counties and farmers have begun to make plans early in the extension year to attend in large numbers. The conference has grown so large that the college has had no place big enough to accommodate the crowd even with standing room, in spite of the ruling that children would not be admitted. It is doubtful that even the new auditorium will seat the 1939 audience.

#### THIRTEENTH ANNUAL STATE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

This meeting was held in Charlotte County, September 12-15, with every extension county represented. Field Agent J. B. Pierce directed the proceedings. He was assisted by the three district agents aided by the county farm and home agents. Guest speakers included Director J. R. Hutcheson, Mr. H. A. Hunt of the F. C. A., President J. M. Gandy, and the director of agriculture, J. L. Lockett of Virginia State College. Mr. Bobbitt, superintendent of schools of Charlotte County, and director D. F. Penn of Hampton.

The first day was spent in a business session at St. Louis Church. On Wednesday morning the group gathered at the Moses Hall, Charlotte Court House and was conducted on a tour of certain farms and homes where we inspected fields of lespedeza, corn, well-painted homes, splendid lawns, canned goods, well arranged homes, and a good kitchen. During the stops at the various homes the hosts were asked to tell how improvements noted had been accomplished. The tour ended at St. Andrews Church near Cullen where an afternoon session was held. Mr. Hunt addressed the gathering and delegates made reports of community improvement done in their home localities. Results of the 1937 Improvement Contest were announced. The Thursday session was addressed by Director Hutcheson and others. Delegates not having previously reported were heard.

The Board adjourned to meet again in Appomattox County in 1939.

#### ANNUAL AGENTS' CONFERENCES

Field Agent J. B. Pierce met all farm and home agents in conference June 9 for a discussion of the progress

made on the 1938 Program of Work up to that time and gave instructions for doing more effective work throughout the remainder of the year.

The annual fall meeting of the farm and home agents was held at the Virginia State College for Negroes, October 24 through the 28th, with Mr. Pierce in charge. Speakers were Field Agent J. B. Pierce, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Director John R. Hutcheson, Assistant Directors C. A. Montgomery and Miss Maude E. Wallace, State 4-H Club Agents G. A. Elican and Miss Hallie L. Hughes, State Food Specialist Miss Janet Cameron, President John M. Gandy and Director of Agriculture, Dr. J. L. Lockett of Virginia State College, Director of Agriculture Donald F. Fenn of Hampton Institute. Each person mentioned brought a special message relative to the completion of the 1938 plans and for the 1939 program and plans. Miss Wallace dealt with women's work for 1939. Miss Hughes discussed leader training and other 4-H problems. Miss Cameron took up foods work and Christmas tree plans. She used frosted cakes, marshmallow Santa Clauses, pine cones, and many other native products in this demonstration. On Friday afternoon the home agents taught the farm agents how to make gum drop trees. Field Agent J. B. Pierce discussed the 1939 Community Improvement work.

#### STORY OF ACHIEVEMENT BY CLUB CARRYING BEST PROGRAM

All counties gave good reports of programs carried by adult clubs. The example chosen is illustrative of what happened in every county. Attention is called to the Pittsylvania, and Halifax counties, also Amherst and Bedford.

#### THE STORY OF ELMONT CLUB, HANOVER COUNTY

The Elmont Community Club was organized in July 1937 with <sup>19</sup>nineteen members. Twelve club meetings with good attendance were held in 1938. In March of 1938 a plate supper was held and \$11.55 cleared. This sum was used towards sending <sup>10</sup>ten delegates to the State Farmers' Conference. Club members, women and men, worked faithfully on yards and gardens. Twelve members grew the four kinds of flowers agreed upon for the county flower exhibit; <sup>1</sup>One woman member won first prize on sinnias and marigolds; <sup>1</sup>One member followed a definite program for improving arrangements of shrubbery and flowers. Club members won <sup>30</sup>thirty prizes at the county exhibit as a result of good work done with vegetables, flowers, sewing, and canning. This club won the first county prize because of winning the highest number of individual prizes. Club members have been very successful with their home improvement work. Eight homes have received wall, window, and floor treatments; <sup>1</sup>One home added a porch and a bedroom; <sup>4</sup>four

persons bought furniture; two club women bought pressure cookers, in which 906 quarts of vegetables and 100 quarts of meat were canned. The men of the club grew and gave away 1000 tomato and cabbage plants to persons who were slow in starting gardens. The persons receiving plants gave three jars each of canned goods for hot school lunches. This garden interest influenced six persons who had not joined the club for made gardens to do so this year. Reports from the other counties mentioned show similar interest in improving home and community surroundings.

#### STORY OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT BY INDIVIDUAL

All of the 1938 narrative reports carried interesting stories of individuals who had accomplished worth while things because of inspiration received through extension work. Attention is directed to the stories told by the following agents: Bedford, Halifax, and Pittsylvania. The last named tells the story of a change from tenant to landowner. The two stories chosen for reproduction here are characteristic of what is happening because of extension activities. When extension work was started in Amherst County the girl who was elected president of the 4-H Club was the child of a tenant and had to move several times during her childhood. This made her wish for her parents to own a home or to own one herself so as to end the moving around. Years passed and this girl married and came back home with her little son, a boy, now ten years old. During the meeting of the ~~of~~ the State Advisory Board in Amherst County in 1937, this young woman talked with Field Agent J. B. Pierce and asked his advice about buying a place near Amherst. He encouraged her to go ahead with her plans. Since that time she has succeeded in securing a seven-room house with plenty of space for a good vegetable garden and a sanitary well. She planted the garden in time to furnish vegetables throughout the summer. Fences had been destroyed entirely; with the help of her little son and some of his playmates, she dug post holes, set posts, and stretched wire around the entire place. By securing dirt that was removed from premises where basements were being dug, the yard has been filled in. She plans to grade her lawn and sow grass seeds. Several minor changes have been made on the inside of the house to make it comfortable and convenient. She is very proud of the fact that her mother is more comfortably situated than ever before and she herself is seeing one of her dreams begin to come true. This young woman thanks extension work for what it has helped her accomplish.

The second instance cited shows how a Louisa club woman, who already had a home, set about making it more comfortable.

Mrs. Irene Jackson of Buckner made the most outstanding achievement in women's work this year when she installed a bath and complete water system in her modest home. A water system was something she had looked forward to for some time. When

the county extension service was called on to help, District Agent J. L. Charity went to the home in the spring; made the necessary survey for materials needed, and in June with assistance of two local farm agents, completed the work within four days. Men were on hand to do the necessary digging. The improvements/arranging a bathing center so as to get in the complete bath room fixtures, a septic tank for sewage, a storage tank on the outside made of two barrels, a boiler in kitchen for hot water, and a kitchen sink. Mrs. Jackson told a group who met at this result demonstration the following story: "My first improvement for water was many years ago when I got a tea kettle after doing without one for a long time. After I got the kettle, I could not see how I had done with out such a useful thing for so long. Now I have had this water system and bath for two months and I can not see how I have gotten along without this convenience."

#### 4-H CLUB WORK

##### Organization

4-H Club Councils have proved to be very effective agencies for conducting successful 4-H Club work, since they bring club officers, leaders, and agents together at regular intervals to study the needs of the juniors and to plan for meeting these needs. From work observed in the field, it looks as if the agents whose councils are best, get the best work done along practically all other lines attempted.

The illustration chosen is taken from the Louisa narrative report:

The County Council is the junior organization for leadership training and planning. The membership is made up of officers of the 4-H Clubs. This year the enrollment was thirty-six members. The first meeting for 1938 was held February 26 with eighteen present -- representing five clubs. Plans that were made in the county planning meeting in December were adapted to the needs of the various clubs represented. The following activities and plans were presented: new songs were practiced, presidents and secretaries were instructed in their respective duties, plans were made for the annual picnic in June and committees appointed for Achievement Day, methods of raising club funds were considered and six of them adopted, a date was set for chorus rehearsals, and the prizes won by 4-H workers in the Ball Canning contest were announced. The Ball Canning Contest prizes won by 4-H workers and received in January 1938 amounted to \$17.

Plans adopted for the year's work were: Each member take home tasks and responsibility of this work; have singing

contests; organize a chorus; have respect for work; plan games and recreation; hold correct dress contest at picnic; hold picnic last Friday of June; hold Achievement Day, October 8; flower show with exhibit; clubs hold a party during the year; encourage a tour to homes of members; make health posters for Negro Health Week; sponsor a club paper to circulate among clubs; award a banner to club making best records.

The second council meeting was held in June at which eight clubs were represented. Officers needed to fill vacancies were elected; delegates made the reports from State Short Course and demonstrated first aid as learned there. Two first aid kits were presented to the communities having the largest attendance at the picnic. Parents were invited in to the meeting and the Family Council explained in a short way. A 4-H album of music was presented to the council and records were played. The Correct Dress Contest was held out of doors. Twenty-three boys and girls representing eight clubs entered this contest. Judges were club leaders. Pictures were made; instructions were given, and achievement committee and plans for the second flower show announced.

#### 4-H CLUBS

The 4-H Club membership includes boys and girls. In the Bedford report the following explanation is given:

The functions of the 4-H clubs are the following:

1. Help club members find some of their individual needs and to find ways to solve their problems
2. Help them to better understand their families and to encourage them to assume some definite responsibility
3. Help train them for leadership in their communities.

Halifax County is the only one in which the responsibility for 4-H Club work can be shared by a farm and a home agent. Perfect harmony seems to exist between these two workers.

#### SCOPE OF WORK

Of the 11990 girls in the eight counties 2179 were reached by extension activities as club members and 1358 indirectly through contacts at schools, churches, or otherwise.

Figures of enrollment for past three years are given below:

Year	:	No. Clubs	:	Membership
1936	:	131	:	3262
1937	:	137	:	3323
1938	:	133	:	3305

DISTRIBUTION OF 4-H CLUBS BY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS

<u>County</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>No. Clubs</u>
Amherst	Court House	5
	Elon	6
	Pedlar	4
	Temperance	7
Bedford	Bellevue	2
	Charlemont	2
	Chamblissburg	1
	Center	4
	Forest	8
	Otter	2
	Lisbon	1
	Staunton	1
Halifax	Banister	3
	Birch Creek	4
	Black Walnut	3
	Meadville	2
	Mt. Carmel	3
	Roanoke	4
	Red Bank	2
	Staunton	3
Hanover	Ashland	5
	Beaver Dam	6
	Henry	6
King William	Acquinton	3
	Mangohick	3
	West Point	3
Louisa	Cuckoo	4
	Green Spring	4
	Jackson	1
	Louisa C. H.	3
	Mineral	2

<u>County</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>No. Clubs</u>
Nelson	Lovington	8
	Massies Mill	4
	Rockfish	7
	Schuyler	-
Pittsylvania	Banister River	1
	Callands	-
	Chatham	8
	Dan River	3
	Pigg River	-
	Staunton River	4
	Tunstall	1

#### 4-H PROJECT WORK

The Family Activities Program appeared to be quite popular in the various counties because of the fact that it bridged the gap between the 4-H Club member and her family and made everyone in the home conscious of how much better things about the home could be if all worked together.

The Louisa report explains how it worked in that county. The Family Activities Program was designed to take the place of work formerly known and conducted as project work. The major emphasis of this program is placed on home and family living. Provision is made for certain duties and activities of the home to be so arranged that members may take active parts in the doing. The subject matter was arranged in short units to be given in such order or combinations as best suited the needs of clubs and members. One county-wide unit was advised to be carried by all organized clubs. Each local club could then select units or parts of units as they desired. The county-wide unit selected in Louisa County was home improvement -- "With the Help of the Family". Various clubs chose food preservation, clothing, yard, and poultry as other work which they would like to do toward home betterment.

Because club women of the county were working on a project in home improvement -- "The County Home in Good Taste" -- it was agreed to so integrate the two phases of work that club girls and boys in homes where adult work was being done could coordinate efforts. Some results showed that families were assisted by members in selecting furnishings, refinishing furniture, improving windows, walls, woodwork, floors, colors for rooms. Other work noted included improved porches by placing pillows and seats on them and mending benches. Closets received new curtains.

clothes bags, or shelves. Club members shared housework by taking care of a certain room of ~~the~~ the lamps of the home. Stove-wood was kept in place, water pails kept filled, and cows and other stock cared for in certain homes.

Personal accounts were kept by sixty-eight girls in fifty-four families. While all did not keep them the same length of time, at least something was done in the way of keeping accounts.

Other county narratives explained how the plan worked out in their territory.

Two counties did their major work in clothing. In one of these counties, it was reported that the girls studied clothing construction. Through the use of appropriate patterns they learned to make attractive clothes for themselves and other members of their families. Special attention was given to the care of clothing by girls and boys. Clothes closets were made of orange crates. The tall center space was used for hanging garments and side shelves for packing folded or flat articles. Clothing members worked and took an active part in the style revue.

Hanover County members made clothing inventories and afterwards kept records of clothes bought each month during the year.

#### HEALTH WORK

Health work was given a place on every county program for 1938. The Halifax report calls attention to the fact that an increase was noted in the consumption of milk and leafy vegetables by more than fifty per cent of the 4-H members, and that county 4-H clubs presented a health play showing the value of a safe water supply. This play was given on May Day at the County Training School.

The Amherst Health work report follows:

Special attention was paid to the food habits score, which was kept for one month during the year by each club member. During the winter and early spring months the younger members gave their parents quite a bit of concern trying to find greens and buying milk where there was no family cow. In a club of (thirty-one) members, 125 pounds were gained by the group during the month that the health score was kept.

The annual Health Day was observed Saturday, May 7, at the Amherst Fair grounds. The program was sponsored by the

4-H Clubs and public schools of the county. Every community in the county was represented in some way. In connection with this the annual Baby Contest was held, thirty new babies entered for the first time. Five of those examined last year competed for the prize given to the mother who had taken the best care of her child since 1937. This prize went to a former 4-H Club member. More than fifty per cent of the babies entered were children of former 4-H Club members.

#### FOOD PRESERVATION

Regardless of what work is agreed upon for county-wide emphasis, home agents are directed to include the production of vegetables and food preservation as an important part of the program every year and to keep the live-at-home idea always before the 4-H Club members as well as adults. Nelson County reported an increase in number of girls who did individual canning without assistance this year. The Halifax agent states that the Ball Canning Contest stimulated much interest in her county. Mothers often made inquiries about club work because of the constant "nagging" they got from their daughters concerned with budget cards and the opportunity to can alone. This year 191 Halifax girls exhibited canned goods at club, county, and state fairs.

#### BALL CANNING CONTEST

The Ball Brothers Company, Muncie Indiana, sponsored a canning contest again this year. Only one contest was held, however, women and girls in the same community worked together. Reports from the counties indicate that the prizes offered did much to stimulate people to greater efforts towards conserving enough food to insure a wholesome diet for the family during the entire year. Placings won in the contest were as follows:

Halifax .....	397	Exhibitors
Nelson .....	317	"
Hanover.....	308	"
Pittsylvania .....	255	"
King William .....	224	"
Amherst .....	174	"
Bedford .....	168	"
Louisa ..	67	"

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1910 Total number exhibiting

### GARDENING

Without a vegetable garden it is impossible to carry out the live-at-home program properly. Therefore, 4-H Club members are urged to assist their parents in cultivating a garden adequate for the size of the family. The Nelson agent says that she never talks at a club meeting without mentioning "food supply".

Eighty-four Hanover club members provided leafy vegetables throughout the year. Eight clubs exhibited greens, sweet and white potatoes at the county exhibit.

#### Bedford Reports:

In many communities in our county no gardens are raised after the first frost. -- This due to the belief of older people that it is too cold to raise fall and winter gardens. However, this barrier is being overcome and each year more farmers and club boys and girls raise fall and winter gardens. "Leafy Vegetables Throughout the Year" was emphasized. Early in the summer after consulting the "Planting Calendar", plans were made for the fall gardens. "Garden Suggestion" which are furnished club members each month by V. P. I. Extension Service are carefully read and discussed in club meetings. With this valuable information 227 club members were able to complete their unit.

### YARD BEAUTIFICATION

Four 4-H Club members were encouraged to assume a part of the responsibility for making the dooryards more attractive. The King William report shows that efforts made to improve the general appearance of the home grounds resulted in the repairing of yard fences, laying of walks, and the use of native shrubbery from the woods. Demonstrations were given at five homes in as many different communities.

Marjorie Crowder of Halifax carried yard beautification as minor work. She lives with her old grandmother while the mother works away from home. Marjorie is paid a small sum for doing the house work. Her lawn was already old, smooth, and well drained. She applied manure and fertilizer and seeded it to blue grass at a total cost of \$12.34 and has a beautiful lawn. She kept it mowed and played croquet on it all summer. Marjorie canned 317 quarts of fruits, jellies, and jams. She entered club and county contests, won first prize on cut flowers, and did the cooking for a family of five.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### A. Community Projects

For many years our field agent has kept the community spirit before the agents, therefore, all 4-H Club members are expected to make some sort of beneficial contribution to community life. In Bedford and Hanover counties the young people are working jointly with adult members toward the purchase or lease of grounds on which to establish a center for community activities. The Bedford members have given chairs and are now making curtains for the Forest Club room. They hold club meetings there, help to keep it clean and are responsible for one third of the rent.

Several counties reported that club members were helping with school beautification work. In Pittsylvania one club purchased shrubbery for the school grounds. Other clubs used native plants. One club set up a reading center in the school. Magazines and books brought fr om home were exchanged among club members. Halifax and King William clubs assisted with the production and preservation of vegetables for hot school lunches. The Hickory Grove, Halifax County club will prepare the soup for the children for a month beginning the middle of December. The serving of hot soup during those weeks kept up the last year's attendance for that time. The effort will be repeated this year with the hope that it will have the same effect.

Many of the Hanover 4-H Club members have pledged to raise one dollar each towards the purchase of ground for a recreational center.

## RECREATION

Agents, leaders, and some parents realize that young people need plenty of wholesome recreation in their lives. Club programs usually include this feature. Some of the approved recreational activities employed were plays, club parties, croquet, softball, games with home-made equipment, checkers, bingo, and outdoor games. The Halifax report mentions the fact that a part of the evening club meetings is often devoted to the making of games to be played in a later meeting. On community club meeting night young and not so young people often play games together.

The cases cited below are not isolated ones. All counties are at work on this need.

### Club and Community Recreation in Pittsylvania

The Handbook for Recreation Leaders and Play for 4-H Clubs afford the material needed for agent and leaders in the recreation work. One-act plays and club parties furnished an incentive for better club attendance. Training was given in

hospitality in the club and home. Individual club members served as host and hostesses at club parties. Two clubs invited the parents of the club members to attend meetings. This idea created a great deal of interest on the part of the parents.

Rural boys and girls are more contented on Bedford farms since they have learned to spend some time in good wholesome play. The older boys make games for their younger sisters and brothers and teach them how to play them. In many backyards may be seen seesaws, swings, and sand boxes, which the little folks enjoy. The older children play checkers, bingo, and the much liked marble game, when the weather is bad. As soon as the weather permits they play all kinds of out door games.

#### RAISING MONEY FOR CLUB ACTIVITIES

Agents reported many many ways employed to raise funds for club purposes. A few of the ways are listed: game socials, box parties, and one-act plays in Pittsylvania, style show in Asherst, King William charged a small fee to enter such games as bingo, lotto, dominoes, checkers, monopoly, pick - up - sticks. Seasonal socials proved very popular also; as all refreshments were donated, proceeds were net. The Bedford report on this topic follows:

Club members are often faced with the question "How to raise money for club activities?" This year they have tried the following:

1. Making and selling candy
2. Making children's clothes from bags and selling them
3. Selling hot dog suppers
4. Seventeen cents rally
5. Oyster supper
6. Ice cream sales

Through these and a few other efforts, club members were able to raise enough money to send thirty delegates from one community to the Regional Short Course in Lynchburg; to help send four delegates to the State Short Course, and to donate \$20 to a fund for recreational center.

#### LOCAL LEADERSHIP

##### Plan for Training and Use of Leaders and Results

Seven counties held regular leaders' meetings during the year. The assistance given by the state girls' club agent to agents and leaders of Halifax and Pittsylvania counties was most helpful. The Halifax report says that that meeting did a great deal towards making leaders see and realize that club programs should be built around community needs. In King William two county meetings were held for the purpose of discussing and

and explaining the county-wide unit for this year. The division of responsibility between agent and leaders for conducting home improvement project for their respective clubs was made. The Louisa experience is chosen because of the splendid work done in that county.

#### Local Leadership in Louisa County

For 1938 twenty-four adults and five older girls in clubs were selected as leaders, nineteen of the adults were purely organization leaders. The first training work began December 16, when county 4-H Leader Planning meeting was held in the court room from ten to two in the afternoon. Six clubs with eight leaders were present. After the discussion of individual and community needs, the activities for 1938 were studied and each leader made a tentative club program for her club for January, February, and March. Leaders joined in discussions and showed interest in the new presentation of the program. For March the clubs were divided into two groups of seven clubs each and were called to two separate leader training meetings each from ten to three in the afternoon. The first group met as planned at the agent's office on March 24. Four leaders representing three clubs attended. Miss L. A. Jenkins, district agent, was a visitor during the entire day's meeting and guided some of the discussions. Plans were outlined for three months and demonstrations on some phases of the home improvement program were presented. The second group meeting was held as planned on March 30, in Cuckoo Community with six leaders representing four communities present. Demonstrations and discussions were about the same for this group. Two new leaders made 4-H notebooks. In each of these leader training meetings in March chairmen were selected and plans made for other meetings for training. For the convenience of leaders the 4-H groups were called to meet with the home demonstration leaders in May and October. The first group met 100% but others had a small attendance. However, the group plan of leader training was found to be satisfactory and a fair measure of results obtained. Leaders held thirty meetings of various kinds with an attendance of 353, gave twenty-five demonstrations to members, and devoted fifty-five days to the work.

#### REGIONAL 4-H MEETINGS

Four regional 4-H meetings were held during this year as follows: July 8 at Surry Court House, July 12 at St. Paul School, Lawrenceville, July 13 at Ruthville in Charles City County, and at the Virginia Seminary in Lynchburg on July 15. These meetings brought together more than 1690 persons — club members, their parents, club leaders, and friends. An approved 4-H program was conducted on each occasion. Among the special offerings were

group singing, a health play, correct dress demonstrations, model club meetings, and stories of projects.

Time was spent in giving each nominee for club offices the chance to execute some of the duties expected of him before he was voted on. This seemed to have been a pretty good campaign stunt and assured us of a corps of capable officers. Attention is called to the Bedford agent's report, page 28, for an account of the broadcast staged as that county's offering.

#### COUNTY FAIRS

No special 4-H Fairs were held. Club members sent their exhibits to the County Fairs as did their elders. The prizes won by successful club members are most welcome as farm girls never have too much money and are greatly encouraged by these winnings.

#### COUNTY PICNICS

Practically all of the counties held club picnics during the summer, though procedure differs slightly.

The 4-H Club members and leaders of King William took a very active part in the county picnic. The general theme of the day was the presentation of one-act plays and stunts by the club members. The clubs' response to producing plays in their respective communities as a form of recreation led to the presentation of them at the picnic. A correct dress demonstration by older club members provided an excellent opportunity for helpful information to younger club members. The 4-H Council sold refreshments to help defray expenses of the body.

The annual picnic and rally for Louisa was held on June 24. The program started at 10:30. Games played were volley ball, races, relays, and horse shoes directed by volunteer leaders. The correct dress contest was a feature of the program; twenty-three boys and girls entered. Each group was judged and pictures taken. Picnic lunch was spread at one o'clock. Ice cream was served by adults. Games lasted until 5:30 when groups left for home. Leaders were most helpful in making arrangements for the picnic. The attendance on this occasion was 175. Prizes of first aid kits were presented to the two clubs having largest attendance.

#### TOUR

##### Louisa Club Members Visit Washington

A group of seventeen young people, each more than fourteen years old, composed the party for the educational tour planned in February and conducted July 14. The group went to

Mt. Vernon and Washington, D. C. The next stop was the Washington Monument, where a view of the city was afforded. Government buildings and the White House were next seen enroute to the Zoological Park where a tour of the park was made. The group returned well pleased over the day's tour. An adult leader accompanied the agent with the group.

#### ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMS

Achievement programs for 4-H and adult work were usually conducted on the same day in the various counties reporting on that subject, one half day being devoted to each. The Pennsylvania agent held her Achievement Day program October 8, with an attendance of 175. The 4-H president presided. The program consisted of club reports, a demonstration in first aid, learned at the State Short Course, and an address by District Agent J. L. Charity.

The King William 4-H Club Council cooperated with the County Advisory Board in sponsoring the first Achievement Day program. Reports of the year's work were made by each club member. Exhibits of canned products, clothing, homemade furniture, handi-craft articles, dried vegetables, and flowers supplemented club reports. A representative of the State Department of Public Health lectured on improved health conditions in the county. Awards were made to members who took part in a correct dress contest, won prizes at the state fair, and to the club that made outstanding achievements during the year.

#### VIRGINIA STATE FAIR

Exhibits shown by our county farm and home agents at the Virginia State Fair illustrated what is being done back home on the farms and in the homes to assist our people to a higher standard of living. The canned goods were well done and showed a wide range of products including fruits, vegetables, pork, and chicken. Home improvement work included rugs, curtains, knitted spreads, crocheted spreads, pillow cases made from bags, pillow cases from new materials, and luncheon sets the same. In clothing there were well made suits and coats for children made from adults' cast off garments, wash dresses, smocks, pajamas, house coats, slippers and other articles; all showing that a strong effort has been made to live up to the 4-H Club motto. Visitors to the building said many very kind things about the exhibit. Many of them stopped to ask how specific things were done. Canned chicken seemed to hold a particular attraction for visitors.

Field Agent J. B. Pierce, Assistant Director C. A. Montgomery, and Miss Sylvia Slocum, district agent, were among those who inspected the exhibit.

### STORY OF BEST CLUB

Poplar Springs, Bedford, 4-H Club members believe "Anything worth doing at all is worth doing your best." They have proven that statement this year by using better methods in their home and farm work.

All club members learned to make beds, to care for their rooms, to make wood boxes and trash baskets, to care for the yards, and to look after the lamps and ditches. The older girls and boys learned to bottom chairs, to make furniture out of orange crates, and to mend broken furniture and steps.

During the winter months these club boys and girls planned their gardens. It was fun to look over new catalogues and select the seeds they wished to grow in their gardens, always keeping in mind at least one new vegetable. When planting time came they consulted the "Planting Calendar" and studied the "Garden Suggestions", which were furnished them each month by V. F. I. Extension Service.

### OLDER YOUTH GROUPS

The work reported as being done by and for older youth groups seems to indicate that a start has been made in the right direction. One group, made up entirely of boys who selected two women and one man as advisors, discussed parliamentary procedure, correct dress, table etiquette, and "Do's and Don't's of Courtship Relations". It is hoped that public conduct will be improved and personal pride increased as the result of these activities.

### STATE 4-H SHORT COURSE

The Bedford agent's account of the 4-H State Short Course is chosen for this report:

This meeting was held at Virginia State College, Petersburg, June 8-11. Each morning religious exercises were held on the lawn; vesper services were held each evening.

The theme for this meeting was "Training for Leadership". The district agents led the discussions on "Leader's Responsibility to His Family" and "Leader's Responsibility to His Community". Club songs and games were high lights, and the delegates had an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities as leaders.

One of the most interesting and helpful features of this program was the demonstrations in first aid under the direction of the leader of Boy Scouts of Richmond, Virginia. Bedford club members are putting these demonstrations into practice.

Field Agent J. B. Pierce and visitors from Hampton Institute and Haiti were present.

On the closing night the program was made up of county offerings. It was surprising to see what splendid talent some of the counties presented.

About 225 delegates and agents were present.

PROGRESS MADE DURING THE YEAR - - OUTLOOK FOR 1939

The statistical reports give definite figures concerning major projects and other work done. It is impossible, however, to estimate the moral values of work accomplished through extension activities. Points listed below are common to practically all of the counties:

1. Leaders Developed

The efficiency of leaders increased in all clubs in counties where definite leadership training was done.

2. Home Ownership

In spite of hard times a few families found it possible to acquire homes.

3. Other Community Improvement Work

Houses were painted, thirteen in one county. Bath rooms were installed, kitchens repaired, remodeled, rearranged, supplied with running water in a few instances; storage spaces were provided, lawns developed, a few homes built, and electric appliances secured in some homes.

Not enough was done, however, to satisfy leaders or agents, because of the large field still open for development.

A glance at the individual narrative reports will reveal that each agent made a different summary of results, but the statement above shows a characteristic cross section.

### OUTLOOK FOR 1939

The majority of the reports indicated that more leader-participation is needed in order to insure greater results in 1939. One county expressed the fact that club members are working towards a stronger advisory board. The work in family relationships should be strengthened. More should be done for older youth. The Live-at-Home program must become a reality. The development of the whole farm and home demonstration in certain counties will receive more attention. With the progress already made and plans already on foot, the outlook for 1939 seems distinctly encouraging.

### DISTRICT AGENT'S NARRATIVE REPORT

May 1, 1938 ended twenty-five years of work in the capacity of supervisor of Jeanes teachers who did part-time home demonstration work 1913 - 1920, and supervisor of home agents, 1921 - 1938. Very friendly relations with present day Jeanes teachers still exist.

### GROUP MEETINGS

Group meetings for home demonstration agents were conducted from time to time to assist them with problems such as leaders' conferences and program making. Such meetings were held in Richmond or Ashland for the Louisa, Hanover, and King William agents; in South Boston or Chatham for the Pittsylvania and Halifax workers, and in Lynchburg or Amherst for Bedford, Amherst, and Nelson agents.

### OTHER WORK

Assistance was given agents individually throughout the year with whatever seasonal problem presented itself, such as planning for the yearly program of work, working out details for community improvement activities in demonstration and cooperative communities, meeting individuals or groups of county people, working out method demonstrations, visiting result demonstrations, and planning for special days such as Advisory Board meetings, 4-H Club Councils, Rally and Achievement Days.

### EXTENSION SCHOOL

It seemed advisable this year to hold fewer extension schools. None was held in home agents' counties. All district agents cooperated with one held in Greensville County. A vegetable canning demonstration on the first day of the school gave about forty women, who came in from the five surrounding counties, the chance to assist in putting up corn, beans, beets, and soup mixture. A made-from-bags exhibit was demonstrated on the second day of the school.

### COUNTY FARMERS' CONFERENCES

Amelia, Albemarle, Prince Edward, and Buckingham counties were visited and work done with women according to requests from the several agents. In Amelia and Lunenburg special efforts were made to give the women an idea of preparing exhibits for the Five County Fair to be held at Blackstone in September. In Albemarle, Prince Edward, and Gloucester "The Satisfying Bedroom" was the topic for discussion. The Buckingham agent asked me to take up with his group simple improvements which people of small means could put into practice. An exhibit of articles made from bags was used here to show how simple things could be used to train club members, young and not so young, towards better standards and ideals.

### FAIRS

Upon invitation from the agents in Powhatan, Chesterfield, and Henrico, assistance was given with the judging at county fairs in the counties named. Judging was done, also, at the Five County Fair held at Blackstone, by invitation from the Amelia-Mottoway agent. All of these fairs showed that the people seem to be accepting extension standards for the products which they now bring for exhibition.

### COUNTY TOUR

Saturday, July 23, was spent in Brunswick County observing improvements made in farm homes in two communities. We saw four homes which had been painted on the outside, three that had been painted inside, one home where running water was being pumped to the kitchen by means of a ram. At this place the man of the house said that this feature was a direct result of discussions of the hardships borne by women in bringing water from a spring, plus the kind cooperation of the county agent in getting the actual work done. Every place save one visited displayed satisfactory evidence of home improvement of some sort. The tour ended in a big rain at the Meherrin Church where about 200 people gathered. No prizes were offered, but comments were made by the district home agent.

### WORK WITH SUSSEX COUNTY WOMEN

Special attention was given to two groups of women in Sussex County with the hope of assisting them with home improvement problems. A demonstration making inexpensive Christmas presents and Christmas tree decorations was given to each group in addition to the necessities mentioned above.

### COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT INSPECTIONS

Four days were spent in visiting and checking up on homes included in the community improvement contests in

Mecklenburg and Pittsylvania counties. About one hundred homes were seen and every place visited showed that attention had been paid to the rules laid down for governing this special work. In many instances other improvements, such as new windows, doors, porches, and occasionally, an extra room had been added. Good gardens were observed in both counties.

#### 4-H CLUB WORK

Special help was given 4-H Club work in Chesterfield, Henrico, and Powhatan counties.

#### EXTENSION CONFERENCES

Had conferences with field and district agents at Hampton Institute and at the Virginia State College to consider plans for better work.

Conferences were had here at the state office with the state home agent and the state girls club agent.

The district home agent participated in conference with clothing specialist and three home agents in Richmond and attended Rural Electrification Conference in Petersburg. Attended a County Planning Board meeting in Hanover County.

#### NON-EXTENSION GROUPS ASSISTED

Again this year the director of the doctors' helpers who met here at the college asked for assistance. The demonstration this year illustrated the preparation of trays for sick, using such foods as might be found on the average Virginia farm. The district agent talked to a group of women of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Richmond about what extension work is doing for rural people. Another group served was the state gathering of teachers in the Adult Education movement in the state.

#### SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOODS WORK

From time to time many calls came to this office for help with food preservation problems. Since it is impossible for one person to fill all engagements, the coming of the Ball worker was very fortunate. She visited and worked in nine farm agents' counties, four with home agents, and two counties having neither farm nor home agent. The district home agent arranged the itinerary and had more calls than the worker could fill.

#### VISITS TO HOME ECONOMICS CLASSES

Two talks were given before groups of home economics students at Hampton Institute and one group at the Virginia State College to acquaint them with activities of home demonstration agents in Virginia.

AFRICAN MISSIONARIES VISIT EXTENSION OFFICE

Twice during the year white missionaries, at home on furlough from their African mission fields, directed by Mrs. Malcolm, U. S. D. A., have visited our office and made studies of work as done by extension agents. Two of them, Mr. and Mrs. Irwin, were former Hampton Institute workers. The other group not only spent a long time in our office, but went to Louisa and visited homes with our local home agent. The simple water systems seen in some of the Louisa homes interested them very much. They said that they saw possibilities for getting water in their African homes in the same way, as a convenient water supply was one of their great problems.

THE NEGRO ORGANIZATION SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Assistance was given this society in its work for better homes, farms, schools, health, and business. Since its work is largely with rural people, it is no hardship to help it along.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgement is made to the president and other workers of Virginia State College who have cooperated with extension workers this year; to Hampton Institute for the same sort of service; to the field agent for the special guidance which he has given us; to our state officials, and to the faithful young woman, Mrs. Anita Crawford Tisdale, who served as secretary from June 1930 to June 1938, and who passed away November 19, 1938. She was a faithful extension worker.

REMARKS

With better trained local leaders more efficient work can be done. In the new year much emphasis will be placed on leader-training work.

Respectfully submitted,

*L. C. Jenkins*  
District Agent