

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK
NOTTOWAY COUNTY
VIRGINIA

1948

Section I

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III. SCOPE OF WORK

A. Home Demonstration Clubs

Number 11 Membership 217

B. 4-H Club

Number 4 Membership 62 (girls)

IV. ADULT WORK

A. Home Demonstration Club Program

1. Project Work

Many factors were considered by the Hottoway County Home Demonstration Committee in working out the program for 1948. With the increase in the cost of living, the homemakers realized that many types of work must be done at home in order to maintain the proper level of living. The increase in the cost of clothing was one of the outstanding problems. With that in mind, the groups selected clothing as a major project.

Food preservation is always an important part of the work for homemakers. With food shortages over the country, the clubs realized the importance of continuing the work on food preservation.

Many new homes are being built in the towns and rural area. Quite a few places are being remodeled also, and many homemakers are interested in some type of central heating systems for the home.

The program was planned as follows:

- December - Recreation - Christmas Program
- January - Lengthening Clothes
- February - Selection of Patterns and Fabrics for Work Clothes
- March - Altering Patterns and Cutting Garments
- April - Construction and Fitting of Garments
- May - Dress Finishes
- June - Freezing Foods
- July - Home Heating Systems
- August - Club Choice
- September - Creative Arts (Federation Goal)
- October - Creative Arts (Federation Goal)
- November - Canning Meats and Freezing of Meats

(a) Clothing

Miss Iva Byrd Johnson, Clothing Specialist, held a leader training meeting in November for clothing leaders. The leaders were trained for the January and the February demonstration. Those leaders

gave excellent demonstrations at their club meetings. In February, the demonstration was "Selection of Patterns and Fabrics for Work Clothes". Patterns designed by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics were used by the leaders for the demonstrations. The leaders selected different patterns, made the garments and then discussed the designs at the club meetings. An exchange of garments among the leaders, added quite a variety of dresses for display and discussion at the club meetings. A leader training meeting was held in March by the Home Demonstration Agent to train leaders for the April and May demonstrations.

A window display of work clothes made by the members of the Hottoway Home Demonstration Club was put on in Grewe during National Home Demonstration Week. Prizes were offered for the best dress by one of the local merchants.

In carrying out the program, the Home Agent devoted sixty-three days to "Clothing and Textile". Two hundred twenty-five families were assisted with clothing construction problems; ninety-four were assisted with selection of clothing and textiles, and thirty-five additional families were assisted with the care, renovation, and remodeling of clothing.

(b) House Furnishings

Some time has been devoted to House Furnishings although that topic was not included in the monthly program for the year. Two clubs made some changes in their programs and therefore, demonstrations on Slip Covers, Refinishing Furniture, Care of Furniture and Arrangement of Furniture, were included during the year. The Home Agent devoted seven days to the House Furnishings phase of the program. Thirty families were assisted with methods of repairing, remodeling or refinishing furniture and ten families were assisted with the selection of house furnishings or equipment.

(c) Foods

Four days have been devoted to assisting individuals with food problems. Thirteen families were assisted with canning and freezing problems and ten families were assisted with food preservation problems.

2. Home Demonstration Committee

The Home Demonstration Committee held its first meeting of the year on March 18. Following a review of the program for the year it was felt that a few changes should be made to improve the program. The original program included a discussion on "Home Heating Systems" for the July program. The group voted to change that program for a demonstration on foods. The demonstration selected was "Pickles and Relishes". The group asked that a county wide meeting for men and women be scheduled sometime in July with a speaker from the Engineering Department at V.P.I. to discuss "Home Heating Systems". That meeting has been scheduled for July 15.

The Chairman of the Home Demonstration Committee, Mrs. D. W. Duncan, Crewe, appointed several committees to make plans for the District Federation meeting to be held in Nottoway County on May 4.

3. Federation Goal

The Federation Goal chosen for the county was "Creative Arts" or "Rural Arts". Goals set up by the chairman for the county included the following:

- (a) Have group singing at each club meeting.
- (b) Encourage the use of stunts and games at club meetings or in special programs.
- (c) Have a display of articles made or crafts completed during late fall.

The first two goals are being emphasized at each meeting. The September and October demonstrations are on "Creative Arts". Plans were made to have "Painting Metal Objects for the Home" for the September meeting and "Making Tufted Bedspreads" for the October meeting. Three leaders and the Home Agent attended a training meeting held in Dinwiddie County on March 8 and 9, on "Painting Trays". Each leader painted a tray at the meeting.

4. Other Activities

(a) Positive Preventive Measures for Health and Home Nursing

One of the goals set up for the county was to have 80% of the club members take part in the Mass X-Ray Clinic. The clinic was held in April and at this time no record has been obtained concerning the number who had the X-Ray made. The matter was discussed at each club meeting prior to the clinic. Twenty Home Demonstration Club members assisted with the clerical work at the clinic.

Two Home Demonstration Clubs in the county had the County Nurses to visit the clubs and help make plans for "Home Nursing Classes". Two classes are scheduled for May.

(b) National Home Demonstration Week and District Federation Meeting

Four newspaper articles were published giving information about National Home Demonstration Week and the District meeting of the Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs held in Blackstone on May 4. A radio program was given on Station WSVB, Crewe on April 30, commenting National Home Demonstration Week with two homemakers and the County Agent and Home Demonstration Agent participating in the program. A similar program was presented over Station WMLV, Blackstone on May 1.

District III of the Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs met at the Blackstone Memorial Center, Blackstone, Va. on May 4 with approximately 500 people present. The speech given by Dr. John R. Hutcheson, Chancellor of V.F.I., was recorded on wire and broadcast later by the local radio stations.

B. Other Means of Reaching People

1. County Board of Agriculture

The Nottoway County Board of Agriculture met at Nottoway Court House on February 25, 1948 with a total attendance of twenty-six. Mrs. W. P. Hurt, Chairman of the Board presided. Reports were given from the following committees: Agronomy, Dairy, Home Improvement, Poultry, Telephone, Youth, Wildlife, and Forestry. A discussion followed each report with the group voting to continue each committee. Mr. E. L. Hummel, Rural Organization Specialist from V.F.I., entered into the discussion and made valuable contributions.

(a) Mrs. C. S. Hooper, Manager, Southside Electric Cooperative, appeared before the group at the request of the Chairman of the Telephone Committee and urged that the Agricultural Board make every effort to have as many farmers and women present at the hearing of the Telephone Bill as possible. A later report indicated that approximately fifteen people appeared at the hearing of the Telephone Bill but the bill was defeated.

(b) The Youth Committee reported that surveys had been made in three counties with visits to the parents of prospective 4-H club members. That was done in an effort to acquaint parents with club work. The reorganization of 4-H work in the entire county started in 1948. The following clubs have been organized:

Bellefonte 4-H Club - Sponsored by the Grange
Four club leaders
Thirty-eight club members (boys & girls)

St. Marks 4-H Club - Sponsored by the Grange
Two club leaders
Seventeen members (boys and girls)

Blackstone 4-H Club - Sponsored by the Blackstone Home
Demonstration Club
Two leaders
Sixteen members

The club meetings are held in the Blackstone Memorial Center

Southside 4-H Club - Sponsored by the Southside Grange
Two leaders
Forty-five members (boys and girls)

(c) The Poultry Committee reported seven people taking part in the "Farm Flock Improvement Program". The greatest improvements were found in the flocks listed below:

	<u>First Score</u>	<u>Second</u>
R. T. Hawkes, Wilson, Va.	65	84
James Beaver, Crews, Va.	74	86

Two poultry culling demonstrations were held in the past year.

The list of participants in the "Farm Flock Improvement Program" is incomplete at this time.

(d) The Home Improvement Committee reported that nine places were selected for Yard Improvement work. Mr. A. G. Smith, Asst. Gardening Specialist of V.P.I. made suggestions for improvements at the following places:

Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Vaughan	Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Ellett, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. William Mottley	Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. William Byson	Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Garland Jones	Rocky Hill Church
Methodist Parsonage at Nottoway	

The suggestions given will take a number of years to complete. Plans should be made for additional suggestions for those places.

The film, "Building With Masonary Blocks" was shown at the meetings of the Iron Bridge and Southside Grange. Open meetings were held and people interested in that topic were invited to attend.

Members of the Home Improvement Committee and other interested people, attended a meeting held at Nottoway at which time Mr. G. D. Kite, of the Agricultural Engineering Department at V.P.I. discussed housing problems.

Attached is a copy of a special issue of the "Courier-Record" sponsored by the Board of Agriculture, giving news stories and suggestions for supplementing the farm income following the cut in tobacco acreage.

2. Radio

The Agricultural Extension Service Program presented Monday through Friday at 12:15 p.m. over WSVS Crews is arranged so that Nottoway County has the program each Friday. The programs rotate between the County Agent and the Home Agent, therefore, two programs are presented by each during the month. The topics discussed on the program by the

Home Agent includes the following:

December: Yard Improvement
Meat Preservation

January: Poultry Suggestions
The Home Garden

February: Using Canned Foods and Poultry Diseases
Kitchen Improvements

March: National 4-H Week - Interview program with two club members and the Assistant County Agent. (Same type of program presented over WMLV, Blackstone, during National 4-H Week)

Creative Arts and Fashions for Spring

April: Clothing Program in the County

National Home Demonstration Week - Interview program with two homemakers and the County Agent presented on April 30. Same program was presented over WMLV, Blackstone on May 1.

The radio has been one of the best publicity media used in reaching a large number of people. Station WWSV has a large listening audience and I feel that the Extension Service program has been quite helpful.

3. Newspapers

The Grewe Chronicle, Grewe, Va. and the Courier Record, Blackstone, Va. have cooperated in publishing news articles from the Home Agent's office. An average of four articles are published monthly.

The Home Demonstration Clubs have a Publicity Chairman who is responsible for reporting club meetings to the newspapers. These reports have been very interesting and serve as a means of informing the public of activities of the club.

V. WORK WITH YOUTH

A. 4-H Clubs

1. County Council

The Nottoway County 4-H Council was organized on March 31, when the club officers and leaders met at Nottoway. Mr. W. A. Turner, Asst. State Boys' Club Agent was present to assist with the meeting. Officers elected were as follows:

President - David Hawkes

Vice-President - Irving Arnold
Secretary-Treasurer - Murlie Wootton
Song Leaders - Caroline Jernigan
Billy Fisher

All clubs in the county were represented with a total of seventeen members and four leaders present. County plans were set up as follows:

May - Observe Rural Life Sunday

June - County-wide Game Night

July - 4-H Camps

August - County-wide Picnic

September - 4-H Exhibits - Livestock Show and/or Achievement Day

National 4-H Club Week was observed with special newspaper articles and two radio programs. An interview program with the Home Agent, the Assistant County Agent and a club boy and girl, was presented over WSVS Crewe on Friday, March 5. Two other club members were interviewed on the program on WKLV, Blackstone on Saturday, May 6.

2. Project Work

The 4-H Clubs in the county have been re-organized this year and all groups are set-up on a community basis, with some adult group sponsoring the organization. The organization and sponsorship of the clubs was described under the Hottoway County Board of Agriculture with the work of the "Youth Committee".

(1) Clothing Projects

(a) Learn to Sew

Thirty-seven girls are enrolled in the "Learn to Sew" project. They have received the notebooks and some of them have started their projects.

(b) Make or Remake Clothing

Twenty-five girls are enrolled in the "Make or Remake Clothing" project. They have studied the selection of patterns and fabrics also adjusting patterns. Some of the girls have started making their garments.

Due to the fact that the 4-H clubs did not get started until late, some of the members are just beginning their projects. The Southside 4-H Club was organized on April 21. That means that some members will be late in getting their project work underway. With the help of two leaders, the members should be able to complete their projects.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Home Agent has cooperated with other agencies and groups in programs which are of vital interest to the people. Such groups include the U. S. D. A. Council, Public Health Department, Red Cross and the Grange organizations in the county. Agricultural programs have been presented to some of these groups. Home Demonstration Club members have rendered valuable assistance to such groups as the Red Cross and Public Health Department in promoting programs of interest to all people.

The Home Agent is grateful and indebted to the staff members of the Extension Service, the Board of Supervisors of Hottoway County and all other individuals who have contributed toward building a better Home Demonstration Program for Hottoway County