

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Mecklenburg County

December 1, 1945 - November 30, 1946

Delores Graves

Local Home Demonstration Agent

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

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SCOPE OF WORK

Home demonstration work began in Mecklenburg County in February 1945 it was carried on until December 1945. The County was without an agent from that time until July 1946. Work was started with the ten clubs that was organized and one other club was organized making a total of eleven clubs with 93 ladies enrolled. Only three clubs are inactive and that is due to the harvest season.

Eight 4-H clubs were reorganized with the membership of 133 girls and 72 boys, work is being done with both groups until the agents schedule is adjusted..

Only a few leaders are active so far due to the busy work season, they have been unable to attend leader training meetings. Special effort is being put forth to get leaders trained so that a larger number of the 3,209 farm families in the county can be reached. A rough estimation of families reached by the home demonstration program would be close to 180. With the addition of good leaders this number can be greatly increased.

ORGANIZATION

The Home Demonstration Committee met in September . Twelve representatives from six of the eleven clubs were present. At this meeting the program of work was planned for the year of 1947. Since the officers had served a short time no new officers were elected.

The County Advisory Board met in July with about 25 members present. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the new Home Agent. The delegates for the State Advisory Board were selected. The County achievements were discussed for the benefit of the delegates to report at the State Advisory Board meeting. Plans were made for a Farm and Home Tour.

A 4-H County Council was organized in July. The officers were elected and the delegates were selected for the 4-H Short Course. Approximately 15 members were present. The Purpose of Council was explained by the District Agent, Miss Harrison. The new Home Agent was introduced.

LEADERSHIP

There are 14 project leaders for adult work, they have been selected carefully and are very active with a little more training they will be able to do excellent work. Since the work is fairly new I have been working directly with the clubs until the leaders are properly trained.

There are 36 club officers these leaders are very active, they have done a wonderful job in interesting the ladies in attending meetings.

Two leader training meetings were held with ten leaders present. Conduction a meeting and duties of leaders were the main features of the meetings. Plans have been made for other training meetings.

There are 15 adult leaders for 4-H work. Eight organization leaders and seven project leaders. No demonstrations have been given by leaders alone but they have assisted the home agent in giving demonstrations.

One leader training meeting was held for 4-H leaders. Care of Clothing was discussed and demonstrated by the agent. These leaders have been of great help in clubs where there are both boys and girls to work with.

RESULTS

Storage space, the work saving kitchen and laundry arrangement were the three projects stressed this year. At least one member from each club has, or making plans to, adapt one or all of these projects.

July and August were spent getting organized and orientated both for the agent and club members. Assurances were rendered during this period by the District Agent, Miss Harrison, and Miss Hughes the 4-H Club Specialist. Due to the busy work season it was a problem to get the groups together. To get organized demonstrations had to be given in some communities to arouse the interest. Giving cheese making demonstrations have meant more in getting organized than any one thing. This has caused new and old members to come out. While the cheese was processing we were able to organize. Canning chicken was another incentive to get the members out.

In September canning and culling of chicken were taken up. A number of things resulted from this demonstration. A large number of members were afraid to use a pressure canner after seeing the simple method of using it have decided to purchase one. In culling their flocks they have solved their feeding problem since there is a shortage of feed. Mrs. Lila White of the Skipwith club had 36

hens and only getting three and four eggs a day. She culled her flock down to twenty, culling ten hens and selling six. The ones she left there was a possible chance for them to lay with proper care. In making her report at club meeting she said "It is not like the saying you cannot eat your cake and still have it instead I have killed my hens and still have them! Another year she plans to get rid of her entire flock and start a new one.

In September and October kitchen, storage and laundry arrangements were taken up. A number of members have made great improvements on these projects one home from each club was selected to be the model.

Mrs Emma Hughes of Boydton Club discarded her old sink and purchased a new cabinet sink and rearranged her working units more conveniently. Mrs. Marie Morse of the Lambert Chapel Club have order for wall and base cabinets, she is arranging her kitchen to save time and energy. The club helped her to decide how and where to construct a laundry room.

Mrs. R. A. Hinton of Northview Club have begun a long term project, remodeling her kitchen, making a storage closet, construction a laundry room and bath room and installing a water system. Due to the shortage of labor and materials she plans to one at a time. The club met at her home and helped her to make her plans. Some of the suggestions were adopted and the construction of the kitchen, laundry and storage closet will be completed.

These projects will continue through the year along with others, they will be mentioned at each meeting.

Feed bags have proved very usefully in making storage and laundry equipments. The most out-standing work was done by the Concord Club. Work was continued with this group after the agent left, in the name of a sewing club. work was being done mostly with feed bags and old material, work was carried on with this group by the agent for the remainder of the year on sewing introducing new ideals. Dresses, aprons, quilts, pillowcases and bedspreads were being made from feed bags. After the agent begun working with this club, shoe bags, laundry bags, clothespin aprons and bags and baskets were lined for wet and dry clothes. Some of the members have made all of these articles. 10 shoe bags have been made, 12 laundry bags, 9 clothespin aprons, 2 clothespin bags, 6 clothesbaskets lined. 24 pounds of cheese have been made by the club members. A club room have been equiped in the basement of the church although a lot more work need to be done to this room. Part of the money have been raised to finish it.

After the 4-H clubs were reorganized and prepared for work only a short time was left for the summer projects. Some work was done on the summer projects but no records sheets were kept in most clubs in others they were not finished. Several bread making and canning demonstrations were given to clubs and small groups. Forty-eight cans of vegetables and 76 cans of fruit was put up by the 4-H girls.

In October work was begun on the winter projects. The project that were taken are housekeeping, storage, small laundry equipment and care of clothing.

The Concord club took care of clothing for their project and each member equipped a sewing box. The pin cushion that were put in these boxes were also made some used the Four-Leaf Clover Emblem on their cushions and boxes. The members have mended at least two pairs of socks. The boys took storage as their projects, five shoe racks have been finished and work have begun on bookcases.

The Bracey club under the leadership of Mrs. Ben Harris and Mrs. Peaks has been carried on since the agent left in December. Meetings were held at least once a month and twice a month during the summer months. Bread making, canning and gardening were stressed. The most outstanding feature was planned recreation, this proved to be very successful since no other recreation facilities were available. A bread making club was organized from this group they met once a month aside from the regular meeting day. In August the agent gave this group a demonstration on making yeast breads only quick breads had been taken up. A number of mothers said they no longer have to make bread.

The Wightman club have made great use of feed bags, the members have completed luncheon sets and are making curtains some have used applique designs and embroidery some ideals are very original.

Emphasis have been put on community work for another year.

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Summary of 1945
County Agent's Work
(White)

In the past years, the Local Selective Service Board had been very lenient with farmers and farm workers. They had deferred practically all persons requesting agricultural deferments. During 1945, the Selective Service Board interpreted the Tydings' Amendment in a stricter sense and practically all of the young farmers and farm workers were taken from the farms. This made the farm labor situation much worse since this was the first time that many agricultural workers were lost to the Armed Service.

VIII. COOPERATION WITH AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The County Agricultural Conservation Association is run by the County and Community Committeemen. They have a capable office force which is responsible to the County Committee. The entire organization is working very nicely in the county.

The offices of the County Agent and the Agricultural Conservation Association are in the same room with a partition to separate the two offices. This is a benefit to the farmers in that it reduces confusion as to where to go.

There are three County Committeemen and two alternates, 30 Community Committeemen and 20 alternates. The County Committee has been very faithful in its duties. The agent has attended a majority of the County Committee meetings. The Community Committeemen are, as a whole, very active. They have assisted in all programs which they have been requested to do so. They were particularly helpful in informing the farmers of the production goals.

IX. COOPERATION WITH CREDIT AND LOANING AGENCIES

The agent has cooperated whenever requested with the Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Agency and the Production Credit Association. The agent also cooperated with the Farm Security Administration.

X. COOPERATION WITH SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Early in the year, the agent called together a group of leading farmers in the county at which time representatives of the State Soil Conservation Committee explained the formation of a Soil Conservation District and the benefit that the farmers might expect to receive from such a district. It was decided by the farmers present that they would like to have additional meetings held in the county explaining the Soil Conservation District formation and the benefits that might be derived from such a district. Seven meetings were scheduled for this purpose. These meetings were con-

In the past years, the local Protective Service Board has been very helpful with farmers and farm workers. They had de-ferred practically all persons requesting agricultural labor-ers. During 1942, the Protective Service Board instructed the Typing, movement in a strike sense and practically all of the young farmers and farm workers were taken from the farm. This made the farm situation much worse since this was the first time that many agricultural workers were lost to the farm service.

COOPERATION WITH AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM . . . VIII

The County Agricultural Conservation Association is run by the County and Community Committees. They have a representative office force which is responsible to the County Committee. The entire organization is working very nicely in the county.

The office of the County Agent and the Agricultural Con- servation Association are in the same room with a partition be- tween the two offices. This is a benefit to the farmers in that it reduces confusion as to where to go.

There are three County Committees and two districts, 20 Community Committees and 20 districts. The County Committee has been very helpful in the district. The agent has attended a majority of the County Committee meetings. The Community Com- mittees are, as a whole, very active. They have assisted in all programs which they have been requested to do so. They were par- ticularly helpful in informing the farmers of the protection laws.

COOPERATION WITH CREDIT AND LENDING SERVICES . . . IX

The agent has cooperated wherever requested with the Farm- land Bank and the Farm Security Administration. The agent also cooperated with the Farm Security Administra- tion.

COOPERATION WITH SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM . . . X

Early in the year, the agent called together a group of lead- ing farmers in the county at which the representatives of the State Soil Conservation Committee explained the function of a Soil Conservation District and the benefits that the farmers might expect to receive from such a district. It was decided by the farmers present that they would like to have additional meetings held in the county explaining the Soil Conservation District function and the benefits that might be derived from such a district. Seven meetings were scheduled for this purpose. These meetings were con-

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Corn

Corn is still the outstanding cereal crop for the county and is produced on every farm.

The agent has placed in the county each year purebred seed corn as prizes in order to encourage the use of better seed and higher yields.

The majority of the farmers seeded corn early and thus a good yield resulted. The agent influenced the county Advisory Board to purchase hybrid seed corn for 18 hybrid corn demonstrations ranging from 2 - 10 acres. The demonstrations were very successful.

Thirty-eight corn demonstrations were secured and carried to completion. In spite of the heavy and prolonged rainfalls the corn crops were successful. It was a good chance for demonstrators as well as others to compare hybrid with open-pollinated varieties. The fact that hybrid stood up was noticeable by all.

Demonstrator Robert Jones, Route 2, Stony Creek, Virginia, housed 850 bushels of corn from his 10 acre plot where the following practices were carried out: In the fall 1944 the land was seeded to clover which was turned under in the spring with a double plow. In three or four weeks, it was disked and harrowed, rows laid off four feet apart using at seeding 250 pounds of 3-12-6 fertilizer in drill. When the corn was about 10 or 12 inches high 250 pounds of 3-12-6 fertilizer was applied. When the crop was laid by 100 pounds of soda was used per acre. The demonstrator was so pleased with results. Four years ago he was only able to produce 40 bushels per acre, while this year his yield was 86 bushels per acre.

Demonstrator Charlie Wiggins, Route 1, Waverly, Virginia, carried a demonstration of 4 acres, yielding 80 bushels per acre. A year ago his

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Notes

There is still the outstanding order for the county and its
 produced on every farm.
 The agent was pleased in the county each year protected seed corn as
 prizes in order to encourage the use of better seed and higher yields.
 The majority of the farmers seeded corn early and thus a good yield
 resulted. The agent influenced the county highway board to purchase
 hybrid seed corn for its hybrid corn demonstration ranging from 2 - 10
 acres. The demonstration was very successful.
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 them. In some of the heavy and produced relatively the corn crops were
 successful. It was a good chance for demonstration as well as secure to
 compare hybrid with open-pollinated varieties. The best that hybrid stood
 up was noticeable by all.
 Demonstrator Robert James, Route 3, Stony Creek, Virginia, housed
 200 bushels of corn from his 10 acre plot where the following practices
 were carried out: in the fall 1944 the land was seeded to clover which
 was turned under in the spring with a double plow. In June or July
 corn, it was spaced and broadcast, rows laid off four feet apart using a
 seeding 200 pounds of 3-12-6 fertilizer in drill. When the corn was about
 10 or 12 inches high 200 pounds of 3-12-6 fertilizer was applied. When
 the crop was laid by 100 pounds of water was used per acre. The demonstrator
 was so pleased with the result. Two years ago he was only able to produce
 40 bushels per acre, while this year his yield was 80 bushels per acre.
 Demonstrator Charlie Wright, Route 1, Beverly, Virginia, carried a
 demonstration of 4 acres, yielding 80 bushels per acre. A year ago his

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Poultry

"Backing the Home Front" pledges were made to increase poultry production on as many farms as possible throughout the county.

Poultry raising is a business engaging the attention of farmers as well as business men.

The raising of poultry utilizes labor and is a source of cash return for practically every month of the year. This fact together with the suitability of by-products in this county for poultry production have led the agent to encourage the production of more poultry for the home and market.

The farmers of Sussex County met the challenge in poultry production by purchasing over 37,000 baby chicks. The chick orders doubled any pre-war orders. They are trying to help themselves as well as the nation. Not only have the families benefited, but a better and more cooperative community spirit has been developed.

As an illustration of such activities: Mrs. M. C. Freeman, Route 3, Stony Creek, Virginia, purchased 1500 baby chicks (day old), 30 died before they were twelve weeks old. The remaining 1470 chicks were used as follows: 160 in the home; 1210 sold on near by markets. Cost of production \$470.00, value of birds used and sold, \$1,127.49, net profit, \$657.49.

Twenty per cent more farmers produced chickens this year than did last year.

Industry

"Seeking the New Front" pledges were made to increase poultry pro-
duction on as many farms as possible throughout the country.

Poultry raising is a business requiring the attention of farmers as
well as business men.

The raising of poultry utilizes labor and is a source of cash return
for practically every month of the year. This fact together with the wide

range of by-products in this country for poultry production have led the
agent to encourage the production of more poultry for the home and market.

The farmers of Kansas County met the challenge in poultry production
by purchasing over 17,000 baby chicks. The chick orders handled by pro-

cess agents. They are trying to help themselves as well as the nation.
Not only have the families benefited, but a better and more cooperative

community spirit has been developed.

In an illustration of such activities: Mrs. J. E. Freeman, Route 2,
Stony Creek, Republic, purchased 1600 baby chicks (day old) to raise her

sons they were twelve weeks old. The remaining 1670 chicks were used as
follows: 160 in the home; 1210 sold to near by markets. Cost of production

\$470.00, value of birds sold was \$1,177.40, net profit, \$807.40.

Twenty per cent more farmers produced chickens this year than did
last year.

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4-H CLUB MEMBERSHIP¹

173. Number of 4-H Clubs.....	6	
174. Number of different 4-H Club members enrolled.....	(a) Boys: 39	(b) Girls: 40
175. Number of different 4-H Club members completing.....	(a) Boys: 31	(b) Girls: 21
176. Number of different 4-H Club members in school.....	(a) Boys: 39	(b) Girls: 40
177. Number of different 4-H Club members out of school.....	(a) Boys:	(b) Girls:
178. Number of different 4-H Club members from farm homes.....	(a) Boys: 36	(b) Girls: 40
179. Number of different 4-H Club members from nonfarm homes.....	(a) Boys: 3	(b) Girls: 0

Number of Different 4-H Club Members Enrolled:

180. By years	Boys (a)	Girls (b)	181. By ages	Boys (a)	Girls (b)
			10 and under.....	7	9
1st year.....	19	27	11.....	6	14
2d.....	8	5	12.....	12	12
3d.....	9	5	13.....	6	2
4th.....	1	2	14.....	3	1
5th.....	2	1	15.....	3	1
6th.....			16.....		1
7th.....			17.....	2	
8th.....			18.....		1
9th.....			19.....		
10th and over.....			20 and over.....		

182. Number of different 4-H Club members, including those in corresponding projects, who received definite training in—	
(a) Judging.....	(f) Fire and accident prevention.....
(b) Giving demonstrations.....	(g) Wildlife conservation.....
(c) Recreational leadership.....	(h) Keeping personal accounts.....
(d) Music appreciation.....	(i) Use of economic information.....
(e) Health.....	(j) Soil and water conservation.....
	(k) Forestry.....
183. Number of 4-H Club members having health examination because of participation in the extension program.....	
184. Number of 4-H Clubs engaged in community activities such as improving school grounds and conducting local fairs.....	

WORK WITH OLDER RURAL YOUTH

185. Number of groups (other than 4-H Club) organized for conduct of extension work with older rural youth.....	
186. Membership in such groups.....	(a) Young men..... (b) Young women.....

187. Number of members by school status and age	In school (a)	Out of school		Under 21 years (d)	21-24 years (e)	25 years and older (f)
		Unmarried (b)	Married (c)			
(1) Young men.....						
(2) Young women.....						

188. Number of meetings of older rural youth extension groups.....	
189. Total attendance at such meetings.....	
190. Number of other older rural youth groups assisted.....	
191. Membership in such groups.....	(a) Young men..... (b) Young women.....
192. Number of older rural youth not in extension or other youth groups assisted.....	(a) Young men..... (b) Young women.....
193. Total number of different young people contacted through the extension program for older rural youth. (Questions 186, 191, and 192, minus duplications).....	(a) Young men..... (b) Young women.....

194. Check column showing approximate portion of older-youth program devoted to—	Under 10 percent (a)	10-19 percent (b)	20-39 percent (c)	40 percent or more (d)
(1) Citizenship, democracy, and public problems.....				
(2) Vocational guidance.....				
(3) Family life and social customs.....				
(4) Social and recreational activities.....				
(5) Community service activities.....				
(6) Technical agriculture.....				
(7) Technical home economics, including nutrition and health.....				

¹ All data in this section are based on the number of different boys and girls participating in 4-H Club work, not on the number of 4-H projects covered.
² Report the total number of different boys or girls enrolled in club work. This total should equal the sum of the project enrollments reported on page 13, minus duplications due to the same boy or girl carrying on two or more subject-matter lines of work. Do not include boys and girls enrolled late in the year in connection with the succeeding year's program.
³ Same as footnote 2, except that reference is to completion instead of enrollments.

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HOME MANAGEMENT

Household Equipment

Discussions and demonstrations were given on the uses of the Foley Food Mill, a very useful piece of household equipment. As a result of these discussions and demonstrations, six Foley Food Mills have been purchased by club members.

HOME MANAGEMENT

Household Equipment

Discussions and demonstrations were given on the uses of the
Tolex Food Mill, a very useful piece of household equipment. As a result
of these discussions and demonstrations, six Tolex Food Mills have been
purchased by club members.