

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1959

Grayson

County

Highlights of 1999

The clothing program as carried on by the Home Demonstration Clubs has contributed more to family living this year than any other one thing. The homemakers have learned to construct clothing so that their families are better dressed and in this way they are helping to increase the financial status of the family.

The development of the Home Demonstration Clubs, Community Improvement Clubs and A-E Clubs have contributed a great deal to family living during the year. More and more people are becoming interested in the over-all program and are taking advantage of the opportunities offered through the Extension Services.

Through these three clubs, family members and family groups are working together for the betterment of the family and the community. Through Extension organizations and meetings the communities are becoming acquainted with each other.

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I. County Situation

Grayson County is located in the mountains of Southwest Virginia. Agriculture is the backbone of the County's economy, although, manufacturing is growing in importance. Livestock and livestock products are the principal sources of farm income. One-fourth of the farms produce some kind of cash crops, such as vegetables or tobacco. Sheep, poultry and hogs are important on many farms. Production of food, pasture and forage crops for livestock is the main cropping system of the County.

Most of the families are natives, so they are interested in the improvement of their community. Grayson County has an area of 451 square miles with a population of about 19,000. About 90 percent of these are rural people. About 24 percent of the male and 35 percent of the female population is employed in the textile and furniture industries. The people of the County are interested in the improvement of home and homemaking practices and improvements in farm practices to increase income.

II. County Extension Program - Adult

A. Organization

The County Home Demonstration Club Committee is made up of the Presidents and Program Development leaders

of each county home demonstration club and a few key members. This committee met twice in 1959. The first time in the spring to make any desired changes in the program and to make plans for special events. The second meeting was in the fall to plan the program for 1960.

B. Subject Matter and Special Emphasis Area

1. Foods and Nutrition

a. New Ways with Old Vegetables

This program was planned so that homemakers could get new ideas in serving fruits and vegetables they canned or froze for the winter, such as tomatoes, beans and apples. Leaders were trained by a representative of the local power company. Each vegetable and fruit was prepared in three ways that were new to the majority of the homemakers. Leaders gave method demonstrations at each club. Homemakers used the recipes that were distributed and have been able to have a greater variety of dishes and meals from the foods they have on hand.

b. Freezing and Canning Methods

The need for this subject was felt in the county because more and more homemakers are purchasing freezers as well as more homemakers are canning some foods. They felt that newer and more simple methods of preserving foods were being used. Method demonstrations were given by the Agent at each Home Demonstration Club.

c. Yeast Breads

Homemakers were interested in learning methods and procedures of making Yeast Breads. Agent trained leaders for this demonstration by showing methods and procedures in mixing and baking a variety of yeast breads.

2. Clothing

a. Garment Finishing

This demonstration was selected because of the many requests for method demonstrations of garment finishing, such as putting in a zipper, how to attach collars and cuffs, methods of hemming, ways of making button holes and belts. Agent gave method demonstrations in each Home Demonstration Club on the item that was needed most within each club. Homemakers have been using these methods and have reported they are better satisfied with their finished garments.

b. Selection and Care of New Fabrics

Due to the many new fabrics on the market, the request from homemakers for this information had been increasing. Fabrics and labels were used at each Home Demonstration Club by the Agent to give this information at the club meetings. Many of the club members buy from factory outlet shops and were unable to make good buys, but with the information they received they felt they could make better selection of fabrics.

c. Knitting

A special interest meeting was held for the county people interested in learning to knit. Seven club members that were experienced knitters taught classes at this meeting. The younger homemakers were interested in knitting children's garments, while the elder homemakers were interested in knitting sweaters for sale. This has spread throughout the County to such an extent that another class has been requested.

d. Tailoring

Club members felt that a course in tailoring would enable them to save on their clothing dollar. The Agent attended a tailoring class conducted by the Clothing Specialist from WPI. Immediately after this training in the spring, classes were planned so club members could have their garments finished by Easter.

A county wide meeting was set up to discuss selection of patterns and materials. The group was divided and four classes were set up, one in each section of the County. Each class met once a week for four weeks. Forty (40) garments were completed by these groups, including coats, dresses, jackets and suits. Club members have made many garments since the classes and they feel the time they spent has really paid off. A fashion show conducted at the Home Demonstration Club Achievement Day was a great success. Children's garments made by the Mothers were also modeled.

3. House Furnishings

a. Better Home Lighting

Club members felt a need for this demonstration in order to overcome the lighting problems of their homes. The Agent was trained by the House Furnishing Specialist from VPI. Method demonstrations were given by the Agent and representatives of the local power company at each Home Demonstration Club. Correct lighting was demonstrated by the use of lamps, shades and bulbs. Lighting has improved in many homes as a result of this demonstration. Lamps have been adjusted, lamp shades improved and new lamps were selected with more care.

b. Cleaning Metals

Homemakers were interested in learning to clean metals because of the many metal objects they have in the homes. Cleaning metals consume much time and money. The Agent gave method demonstrations of methods and procedures in cleaning brass, copper, silver and iron. Discussions were held on cleaning other metals. The Agent received instructions for cleaning metals from the House Furnishing Specialist at VPI.

4. Home Management

a. Ways of Stretching The Food Dollar

Homemakers were asking for information on how to meet the prices of foods and still give their families nutritious meals. The Agent was trained by the Foods Specialist from VPI. Film Strips on Stretching The

Food Dollar was used and discussions conducted by Agent and leaders on ways and means of using foods on the home shelf in preparing nutrition meals.

5. Rural Arts

a. Copper Tooling

A special interest meeting was conducted because members felt a need of some craft work in their program. Leaders attended a workshop on copper tooling conducted through the North Carolina Extension Service. These leaders in turn conducted a special interest meeting in Grayson County. At this meeting approximately 40 copper planters were made. Five Home Demonstration Clubs have conducted special interest meetings in various parts of the County. Many planters, plaques and pictures have resulted from this. This has proven to be a way of making many inexpensive gifts and some of the members have earned money in this way. The various meetings have brought more club members together for recreation and many new members have been attending Home Demonstration Clubs as a result.

b. Drying Flowers

This demonstration on Drying Flowers was selected because a few members were interested. Information was sent the Agent by the Rural Arts Specialist from WPI. Homemakers with experience in drying flowers used this information in giving method demonstrations at club meetings. Few homemakers have made any use of this demonstration.

6. Landscaping

a. Care of Lawns

Club members ask for this in connection with the Home and Community Beautification Program. The Agent was trained by Specialists from VPI. Slides and discussions were used at each Home Demonstration Club. Members have used recommended methods of lawn improvements.

b. Growing Roses

This subject was requested in connection with the Home and Community Beautification Program. Many homemakers were interested in starting roses. Method demonstrations were used in part of the clubs by leaders on starting roses. Discussions were conducted by the Agent and leaders in all Home Demonstration Clubs on the care of roses. One Home Demonstration Club placed an exhibit on growing roses in the Home Demonstration Club exhibit at Achievement Day.

7. Health

a. Civil Defense

Club members were interested in knowing about Civil Defense since so little had been done in the County. Leaders were trained by the Director and the co-ordinator of Civil Defense in Crayson County. These leaders held discussions in all clubs. Interest has grown from these meetings into the Community Improvement Clubs.

8. Program of Work

a. Home and Community Beautification

This was selected because club members felt that they could do something in beautifying the community if all worked together. Leaders were trained by the Agent and County Program of Work Chairman. Each community has accomplished some part of the community beautification program and plan to continue it for another year. Many improvements in home beautification have taken place, such as improved landscaping, flower borders, fences and general appearances.

C. Other Activities

1. Home Demonstration Clubs Community Projects

a. Elk Creek Home Demonstration Club

This club has taken on the project of improving an old school building to be used for a community building. They work with the 4-H clubs in sponsoring recreation for the people of the community. Club members assisted in organizing the community 4-H club and help with the programs.

b. Coners Rock Home Demonstration Club

The members of this club have assisted in organizing and working as project leaders in the 4-H clubs in their community.

c. Spring Valley Home Demonstration Club

The members of this club have selected as their project to beautify the community. Shrubs and flowers have been set out at the community building. Plans are made and some work started on other places in the community.

2. Achievement Program

The Home Demonstration Club Achievement Day was held in

early summer. Each club planned and set up an exhibit on one demonstration they had had at a club meeting. Club members modeled dresses, coats, suits and jackets they constructed during the tailoring classes conducted during the spring. Garments were modeled by children that had been constructed by their Mothers. This proved to be a very successful day.

B. Judging by Leaders

a. Two club leaders from Grayson County were judges at the Carroll County Fair.

4. Community Improvement Clubs

Four out of the six Community Improvement Clubs participated in the Community Judging program this year. Coners Rock for the second time was placed first in the area judging. Stevens Creek, a new club placed third in the beginning club group.

E. Farm and Home Development

Ten farm and home development families have been worked with in the county. Families are visited and worked with by request. Most problems of these families have been in the food and nutrition field. Several have been given assistance in planning a more convenient kitchen, some in better lighting. One homemaker has planned over a period of years to remodel the home. Last year a new bath was added and the kitchen more conveniently arranged. This year, improvements in the living area have been made. Plans are being made for central heat and insulation.

This homemaker has requested assistance in the Management of time and money. She uses recommended practices in planning, preparing and serving foods. She plans her food preservation to fit the needs of her family and feels that she has been able to save a great deal of time and money.

III. County Extension Program - Youth

A. Organization

4-H clubs were organized in the schools of the County. The county council met and organized in the early spring. Plans were made for the coming year. 4-H clubs were organized in September and a training meeting for officers was held. County Council met in October and elected new officers.

B. Project Work

1. Safety

The Safety Project was carried by the majority of in-school clubs. This project was an attempt to make the club members conscious of safety practices. Representatives from the local power company gave demonstrations at each 4-H club on "Safety with Electricity" and a State Trooper talked to each club on "Safety on The Highways". From the records turned in, it is apparent that the club members are interested in safety and have been using safety methods.

2. So You'd Like To Sew

One (1) in-school group of girls carried this project to

learn the methods of sewing. Sewing boxes were equipped, instructions on how to use a needle and thimble were given. Using the sample patterns, the girls made small articles and placed them on exhibit the last month of school.

3. Make or Remake

One (1) group of younger club members having completed the So You'd Like To Sew project, continued with the Make or Remake project. Girls learned to use more complicated patterns. Dresses and skirts were remade and simple blouses and skirts were made.

C. Other Activities

1. Community Activities

Community A-H clubs planned and carried out activities to raise money for the Southwest Virginia A-H Center. One group conducted a clean-up campaign for their school building before school opened.

2. Camps

Twenty-Three (23) A-H members from Grayson County attended Sr. A-H Camp at Greenville, Tennessee. These members brought several honors to the County and have contributed to the overall A-H program in the County as a result of this experience.

Twenty-Five (25) Jr. A-H members attended the Jr. Camp at Abingdon Presbyterian Camp near Bristol. These club members took an active part in camp and won many honors for their group. The Home Demonstration Agent and Assistant County Agent accompanied the group.

3. Achievement Day

The A-H Achievement Day, the first in several years was held on November 7th. Forty-eight (48) awards were presented to boys and girls for their achievements for the past year.

4. Regional Resources Development Conference

Two (2) A-H members (one boy and one girl) were delegates from Grayson County to the Regional Resource Development Conference at Fontana Village, North Carolina, this summer. These members have contributed much to the A-H program in Grayson as a result of this experience. The girl acting as Jr. Leader at Jr. A-H Camp did an excellent piece of work.

IV. Scope of Work

A.	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. H. D. Clubs	16	14	16	16	16
Membership	356	358	358	287	256
No. H. D. Groups unorganized	0	0	0	0	0
Membership	0	0	0	0	0
No. 4-M Clubs	7	10	15	14	14
Membership	168	254	465	462	802
No. DM Clubs	0	0	0	0	0
Membership	0	0	0	0	0
No. Community Clubs	4	5	5	5	6
Membership	169	210	478	478	480
No. Home Ec. Committee	0	0	0	0	0
No. General Interest Committees	0	0	0	0	0
No. Youth Committees	0	0	0	0	0
No. Other Organizations	0	0	0	0	0
No. Farm & Home Dev. Families	0	0	10	10	10
No. Other Families Reached	890	319	450	500	570
No. Different Families Reached	1100	450	1020	1240	1500

- B. The Home Demonstration Agent made home visits, wrote letters, conducted meetings, made talks, attended meetings, made broadcasts, wrote news articles and made many personal contacts to inform the public about Home Demonstration Work.

Special interest meetings were conducted and the public invited to take part. This has proven a successful way in getting homemakers interested in Home Demonstration Work.

Each Home Demonstration Club has been encouraged to give some information received from the Home Demonstration Clubs to at least three other people each month.

V. Leadership

A. Growth of Leadership

1. Overall program leaders

	1957	1958	1959
a. County Agricultural Ext. Service Board	10	10	10
b. Youth Council	93	102	124
c. Home Economics Council	32	32	32

2. Home Demonstration Club Leadership

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. Organizational leaders			15	18	35
No. Project leaders (subject matter)	104	160	96	80	144
No. Federation Program of work Chrs	16	15	16	17	17
No. Program development leaders	16	15	16	16	16
No. result demonstrators	13	6	6	18	32
No. training meetings by specialists	9	5	5	2	0
No. training meetings by dist. agent	0	2	3	1	1
No. training meetings by agents	0	2	3	3	5
No. training meetings by others	0	0	0	2	3
Attendance at all training meetings	272	142	168	128	108
No. meetings held without agent	47	11	38	43	40
Demonstrations by leaders	103	82	52	51	80
Talks & discussions by leaders	56	96	110	141	216

3. 4-H Club Leadership

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. club officers	48	62	68	98	125
No. adult project leaders	8	8	6	7	10
No. Jr. project leaders	2	2	3	3	7
No. result demonstrators	2	2	0	2	0
No. training meetings by specialist	0	0	0	0	0
No. training meeting by dist. agent	1	1	0	0	1
No. training meeting by agent	9	5	0	1	1
No. training meeting by memb. club dept	0	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by others	1	2	0	0	0
Total attendance at ldr. trn. meeting	37	17	15	35	125
No 4-H leaders trained individually	9	5	6	7	12
No. club meet. held by ldr. w/out agent	39	11	7	4	15
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	26	31	12	10	92
No. demonstrations given by adult ldr	31	18	10	5	12
No. demonstrations given by jr. leader	26	11	26	15	5

B. 4-H Story

The J. W. Reeves, Jr. family consists of Mother, Father and two teen age boys and one 12 year old daughter. Each member works a great deal with 4-H. Mrs. Reeves has worked long and hard as county finance chairman for the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center. She has assisted in organizing 4-H clubs, county council and project work. She is also an active

member of the Home Demonstration Club and Community Improvement Club. Both boys have been officers in their own clubs each year for a number of years. One was the chairman of the county council. Each boy has participated in county and district contests. The daughter has been an officer in her 4-H club for the past four years and is now vice-president of the county council. She is very interested in both Agricultural and Home Economics projects. The children and Mrs. Reeves have received awards and recognitions. Mr. Reeves has encouraged his family to participate in all 4-H activities. Due to a full time position, his activities have been limited to Community Improvement Work.

VI. A. Special Considerations

With a new Assistant County Agent the scope of 4-H club work has increased many times over. More and more projects are being carried and completed. The school 4-H clubs have increased in active members and the programs are interesting and well conducted. For the first time in several years a training meeting for officers of the 4-H clubs was conducted. This proved to be time well spent for all concerned. The 4-H clubs were conducted in a very efficient and business like manner.

B. Public Relations

The Home Agent uses every possible means and opportunities to work with and get acquainted with the county workers, the general public, the elected representatives, commercial and professional people.

C. Professional Improvement

The Home Agent attended District Communications School, District Tailoring Classes, acted as judge for 4-H Achievement Records, attended a Furniture Workshop at High Point, North Carolina. The Agent also attended District and State Agents Conferences. Professional books and magazines are read so as to find new methods and techniques for training. She also has taken part in programs and workshops of other organizations.

VII. The Look Ahead

This years program has been very successful. The programs as planned appeared to meet the needs of the majority of the people. It seems that more special interest meetings would improve the Home Economics Extension Program in Grayson County, this is in the plans for 1960. A general interest group on foods and nutrition could prove to be helpful.