

VIRGINIA

GREENE CO. HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT ANNUAL REPORT 1941

Index	Page
4 h 1.3	Poultry Clubs, 4-H.....37
8 a 2.612	Local Leaders, Adult work, Home Economics.....14-15
8 b 2.33	Program Development, County 4-H Club..13
* 8 b 2.32	Program Development, County, Home Economics.....12-13
8 b 4.2	Program Correlation, County.....10
10 b 10.1	School Lunches.....33-34
10 d 8	Fruit and Vegetable Canning.....20
13 a	Home Management Clubs, 4-H.....38
15 c 11.2	Furniture Refinishing and Renovation..17-19
22 c 2	Nutrition for Health, County Committee.22-23

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**REPORT FILES**  
**EXTENSION WORK**

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK  
GREENE COUNTY  
VIRGINIA

HOME DEM AGENT ANNUAL REPORT

1940

Miss Virginia Swink  
Home Demonstration Agent

December 1, 1940 - November 30, 1941

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. COVER AND TITLE PAGE.....	1
II. TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
III. SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES.....	4
IV. CURRENT ECONOMICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE COUNTY PROGRAM.....	5
V. ORGANIZATION.....	8
Adult work.....	8
Youth work.....	8
4-H.....	8
Older youth.....	8
Table of enrollment.....	9
Adult.....	9
Youth work.....	9
4-H.....	9
Older youth.....	9
Relations between adult and youth programs.....	9
Agent's relation with other agencies.....	10
VI. PROGRAM PLANNING.....	12
ADULT.....	12
Youth.....	13
4-H.....	13
VII. LEADERSHIP.....	14
Adult.....	14
Organization.....	14
Project leaders.....	14
4-H.....	15
Club sponsors.....	15
Project leaders.....	16
VIII. ACHIEVEMENTS.....	17
Adult work.....	17
Major projects.....	17
Minor projects.....	19

Garden.....	19
Canning.....	20
Clothing.....	21
Poultry.....	21
Special activities.....	22
 Nutrition.....	 22
 Cotton mattress project.....	 23
 Clinic.....	 25
Pre school.....	25
 Participation in Federation.....	 25
District.....	25
State.....	26
 Campaign.....	 27
 Red Cross or other defense activities.....	 29
Red Cross.....	29
Aluminum Drive.....	29
Enrollment for volunteer service.....	29
Agricultural Defense Board.....	29
Health.....	30
 Recreation.....	 30
 Achievement Day.....	 31
Human Interest.....	33
Outstanding work of club.....	33
Outstanding individual.....	34
An account of how a group recognized and overcame an obstacle to achieve more satisfactory living.....	35
 Youth Work.....	 37
4-H clubs.....	37
Project work.....	37
Summer projects.....	37
Home responsibilities.....	38
Health work.....	38
Community work.....	38
Recreation.....	39
Home.....	39
Community.....	39
Camps.....	40
Human interest.....	41
Outstanding work of club.....	41
Outstanding individual.....	43
 IX. PROGRESS MADE DURING THE YEAR.....	 44
 I. PLANS AND GOALS FOR 1942.....	 44
 News.....	 46

### III. SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

Days in field.....	204
Days in office.....	82
Days annual leave.....	22
Days sick leave.....	0
Days leave without pay.....	0
Legal holidays taken.....	5
Number home visits made (adult).....	335
Number 4-H club members visited.....	105
Number farm homes visited for first time.....	26
Number office calls.....	350
Number telephone calls.....	103
Number news articles or stories published.....	54
Number individual letters written.....	2877
Number different circular letters written.....	17
Number meetings attended.....	304
Number miles traveled.....	14,007
Number radio talks given.....	0

#### IV. Current economic and social conditions affecting the county program

Greene County is located on the Southeast side of the Blue Ridge Mountains about one hundred miles southwest of Washington, D.C. The county is bound by Albemarle, Orange, Madison, Page, and Rockingham Counties. The nearest towns of interest are Harrisonburg and Charlottesville.

About twelve square miles of the mountainous area of the county have been taken over by the Government as part of the Shenandoah National Park and hundreds of families have been moved out of the mountains. However, there are still several hundred families living on small rocky farms that are too steep and too poor to be cultivated profitably. These people have intermarried until there is an astounding amount of feeble-mindedness epilepsy and other physical defects. 66% of the farm workers have marginal incomes. The assessed value per capita, real estate, and personal property is \$196.

At the foot of the mountain is a fairly rich valley consisting of good farming land, pastures, and streams. The latter furnish ideal grazing lands for beef cattle which bring top prices on the market.

One of Greene County's most abundant natural resources is rocks. There is a sufficient supply for road construction and any type of masonry. The streams are harnessed to operate many small grist mills which make the finest grade of corn meal. They also are a drawing card for bringing

in tourist to fish.

The mountain people are mostly descendants of some Hessian soldiers who remained in America after the Revolutionary War. The mountain dwellers are a rather thriftless type of people. The more energetic men have brought their families out into the valleys and have been able to make most satisfactory livings and accumulate small estates.

The homes are about the same as we would find in any section of the country. The poorest families live in two or three room huts made of logs or very inferior lumber. They all have plenty of ventilation. As the standard of living improves the people find better and larger homes, which are either frame, stucco, cinderblock, brick, or rock. They range in size from five to twelve rooms.

The chief sources of income are beef, cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, tourists, trucks, general mercantile business, garages, filling stations, and hatcheries. Home demonstration work has made several important changes in the County. The standard of living has been raised, many conveniences have been placed in the homes and on the farms.

The soil conservation program has improved the land and increased the farm income. The REA has started new lines in the county to extend electricity to many homes which have not had it before, but shortage of wire has held up the project for some time.

After taking all these factors into consideration it was decided that a program to encourage and help the people repair what they have and make that more attractive and to produce

and can or store sufficient food for an adequate diet would meet the needs in the county better than any other work that could be undertaken.

## V. Organization

### 1. Changes or developments that have taken place in the organization during the year.

#### a. Adult work

The adult program has been strengthened by changing the old advisory board into the Homemaking Board thereby bringing the FSA Home Supervisor into the planning of the work. The Professional Workers' Council has been formed which has assisted in the organization of a County Agricultural Committee and a County Nutritional Committee.

#### b. Youth work

##### (1) 4-H

Greene County has had 16 4-H clubs during the year. In September a one-room school was transferred across the river boundary from Greene County to Madison. The new school building there will be developed into a community center and the club will continue under different leadership. The general 4-H club organization has changed very little. It has been very hard to find local leaders in some communities.

### 2. Older youth

At the beginning of the year the agent started a group of six girls between the ages of 16 and 24. Regular leader training meetings were held in December, January, and February. In March work began opening up in an adjoining county and all six left the county to take up jobs.

## 2. Table of enrollment

### a. Adult

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Clubs</u>	<u>Membership</u>
1939	9	238
1940	8	242
1941	8	200

### b. Youth Work

#### (1) 4-H

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Clubs</u>	<u>Membership</u>
1939	14	300
1940	16	335
1941	16	334

#### (2) Older Youth

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Clubs</u>	<u>Membership</u>
1939		
1940		
1941	unorganized: 6	

## 3. Relation between adult and youth program.

Several of the home demonstration clubs have one or more members who act as 4-H club leaders. Once or twice a year 4-H club members make reports at home demonstration club meetings on what the 4-H clubs are doing. Each home demonstration club holds either a picnic or a party during the year for the 4-H club members in its community.

#### 4. Agent's relations with other agencies

The Professional Workers' Conference has been organized a year. The organization is made up of the local representatives of the Extension Division consisting of a farm and a home demonstration agent; the Farm Security Administration which has three branches, one that works with the mountain families that have moved into homesteads, the workers on the pre-standard program and the standard case workers; a vocational agricultural and a home economic teacher, the National Farm Loan Association, The Soil Conservation Service, NYA Director, WPA Educational Area Supervisor, Public Welfare Superintendent, Federal Crop Loan, Production Credit Association, Superintendent of Public Schools, and Northern Piedmont Electric Corporation.

This group has devoted a meeting to a study of the program of each agency. When it came time to develop the County Nutrition Committee this body spent one meeting studying a map of the county, spotting communities and selecting a key man and woman from each to be appointed on the committee. After the people were selected the council entertained those named on the committee at a picnic supper on the Skyline Drive.

The next piece of work undertaken by the council was the forming of a County Agricultural Board. The map was again studied and people agreeable to all agencies were selected to serve on the board. The council requested the service of a state organizational specialists who

came to the county and explained the purpose of the County Agricultural Board, why it was needed, and the work it was to do. Then supervised the organization of the board.

The Professional Workers now feel that the council is ready to really begin coordinating the various programs. Its greatest service this year has been in getting these two very important organizations started and in jointly assisting with the carrying out of the work they started.

## VI. Program Planning

In April of 1940 the county home demonstration agent started the women in the clubs thinking about the program for 1941 by talking about the Homemaking Board meeting which was to be held at an early date. Some of the conditions in the county were discussed and the members of the clubs who were to attend the meeting of the Homemaking Board were asked to study the needs of their communities and bring the facts discovered to the board meeting.

When the board met the home demonstration agent and the FSA Home Supervisor gave some county wide data on conditions. This was compared with community conditions and discussed by all. The members of the board took the discussion points back to their clubs and after a general consideration of the facts the members were asked to think them over until the next meeting and to be prepared at that time to make concrete suggestions on two major lines of work on which to base the 1941 program.

At the next meeting each woman wrote two subjects on a slip of paper. These were taken up and tabulated. It was found that the most of the women wanted to do furniture repair work. This was again taken up at the July meeting of the Homemaking Board and definite demonstrations asked for. This information was presented to the state specialist who came to the county for a planning day with the women. At this meeting the group made arrangements for leader training meetings, planned the details of the

monthly programs and when each club would have certain demonstrations. It was decided that each club would need a two day meeting when they repaired their furniture. This would make it impossible for the home agent to be with them at half of their meetings during January, February, and March.

## 2. Youth

### a. 4-H

At the spring meeting of the 4-H clubs the girls were told that it was time to think about the next years work and what they wanted to do in 1941. They were asked to think the matter over. To consider the projects they had had in the past, which were named then and discussed, and after considering that to come to their next meeting to vote on what they wanted to do in 1941. The voting took place at the next meeting with the clubs asking for food preparation again. The club members were asked to name the things they wanted to learn to cook. The subjects asked for were brought to a county meeting by the presidents of the clubs and a unified program worked out. This information was passed on to the food specialist who met with the agent and planned for the leaders training meetings. The specialist gave the agent the needed material so that she could hold the leader training meetings.

## VII. Leadership

### 1. Adult

#### a. Organization

The organizational leaders for the year were elected at the November club meetings. Although they are just elected for one year they are usually continued in office for two years which is the maximum time an officer is allowed to serve. These leaders assisted with the planning of the years program. Saw to having a place for club to meet each month. They acted as an executive committee to handle any matters which came up unexpectedly that needed to be acted upon before the club could meet. One member of the group took charge of the publicity for the newspaper. One saw to it that there was some recreation planned for each meeting of the club. One member kept the records of the clubs activities. This group usually listened out for suggestions or criticisms and brought them to the agent who worked with them and either added the suggestions given to the club program or straightened out anything that had caused unhappiness.

#### b. Project leaders

Project leaders were appointed at the November club meetings. Three leader training meetings were planned and the specialist in home improvement came to the county for these meetings. One was a two day furniture repair demonstration and the other was devoted to another phase of the program. The agent

gave further training by visiting the leaders and assisting them with problems.

At the monthly meetings on "Furniture Repair" the leaders assisted the agents with the instruction because there was so much work brought to the club meetings neither the agent nor the leaders could have supervised the work to be done and demonstrated the methods of procedure without the help of each other. Later when the demonstrations were more simple some of the leaders gave the demonstrations to the club. Where the leaders were not able to give the demonstrations they were required to assist the agent so as to get that much experience with the hope that they could be built up enough to give the demonstrations next year and thereby relieve the agent for other work needed in their respective communities.

## 2. 4-H

### a. Club sponsors

Each home demonstration club has sponsored a 4-H club. In one case the sponsor assisted the club in purchasing some much needed equipment. Each of the other sponsors planned one or more special events for the 4-H clubs, either a picnic, a Christmas party, a weiner roast or a trip somewhere. In two cases the sponsor club invited the president of the 4-H club to attend the home demonstration club meetings and tell the club what the 4-H club was doing and suggest to it what help the boys and girls needed.

b. Project leaders

Project leadership with the 4-H clubs in Greene has never reached the desired point of effectiveness desired for several reasons. One is that most of the young men and women capable of being leaders leave for Richmond, Washington or other large cities as soon as they finish high school, or they seek employment in the few fields offered here and are not available as leaders. Those who do function are local women who have gone away to college and have come back to teach in local schools. It is therefore difficult for them to be present at the 4-H club meetings except in the one room schools where they allow the whole body to take part in the club program and activities. In the winter the home agent held leader training meetings to which six young women were invited to attend. These women assisted the agent with the food demonstrations. But when work opened up in two nearby towns they all left to take up jobs.

The leaders in the school made arrangements for meetings. Saw that the club members brought the supplies they promised to bring. Where it was possible for them to do so attended the meeting and assisted with the demonstrations. They helped in checking the work the club members did and in getting in reports. They helped their clubs in getting ready for Achievement Day and in finding ways to get there. They helped plan an outing in the summer for the 4-H clubs that

were not sponsored by a home demonstration club.

### VIII. Achievements

#### 1. Adult work

##### a. Major Project

At the Homemaking Board meeting it was decided that the women would not have much money to spend in beautifying their homes that it would be well to try to fix up some that they already had. It was realized that the work could not be completed in one afternoon meeting so the board decided to have each club schedule a two day meeting for the repair demonstrations. Half of the clubs were to meet in January and half in February for this work. The agent realized the work would be very difficult so she contacted the NYA director and had two boys and two girls assigned to her for three months. These boys and girls were required to attend the leaders' training meetings and then take some extra training from the agent. In February meetings were held in three communities. In March six communities, and later two other communities in which there was no club called on the agent for clinics. The first day of the demonstration was devoted to finding out what needed to be done to the furniture. Pulling off the old materials so that the owner could get down to the parts that needed to be repaired. The next step was to glue and brace the pieces to strengthen them. This usually took up all of the first day. Then on the second day the women began the setting and tying of springs.

These were then covered with burlap bags brought from home. Where the old padding was usable it was then opened up and spread on the chair or couch. In most cases the women were urged to bring old quilts or pads to supplement the old padding. This was all fastened down and then covered with white feed bags and made ready to slip cover the next meeting.

Among the pieces repaired were two great big overstuffed lounges which were torn down to the wooden frames and in one case the frame partly rebuilt. The springs were reset and tied, and the job completed. 69 chairs were reseated with splits, at a cost of twenty cents each for splits. 5 chairs had cane backs and seats put in at a cost of about 80cents each for cane. Springs were set, tied etc. in 55 pieces, 6 beds were cut down and remodeled, 3 tables were made from the materials left from the beds and 4 other end tables were made to place at the ends of old lounges. 2 tables had their old finishes removed and were repainted. Four bureaus were repaired and remodeled. 5 couches remade, 18 sewing machines repaired and put back into operation. 17 pieces were reupholstered. All of the pieces needing to be slip-covered were so finished. Two women made new mattress pads for their porch gliders and recovered them.

The other demonstrations selected in this project were window treatments, slip covers and draperies. 158 women improved the walls, woodwork, and floors of

their homes. 67 improved the window treatment, 20 improved the arrangement of their kitchens, 36 obtained labor saving devices, 6 bought refrigerators, 14 new stoves, and 6 steam pressure cookers, 3 put in sinks, 4 running water, 3 bath rooms, 2 sewage, 7 improved water supply, 4 built sanitary toilets, 8 improved screening, 24 made soap, making 600 pounds, 13 improved storage space.

b. Minor projects

(1) Garden

The women in Greene County do a tremendous amount of gardening. In checking the reports the women turned in the agent found the number of vegetables planted ranged from 10 to 18. The most frequently planted were radishes, lettuce, spinach, peas, onion, cabbage, mustard spinach, kale, tomatoes, butter beans, string beans, corn, beets, turnips, squash, while some put in broccoli, kohlrabi, and Chinese cabbage.

In the spring a garden specialist came to the county and spoke to four groups on the "Year Round Garden". The agent has visited several of the school gardens and assisted in securing seed for some of the most effective work was done in getting the people to use the proper insecticides and good healthy seeds. 75% of the women who made a report of their years work stated they would have fall gardens and greens through the year. This would have been much better if the season had not been so dry.

This project was carried on in all eight home demonstration clubs. Each member had the very best garden possible under the weather conditions. One woman has for several years added a new vegetable to her garden. When it matures she gathers up good servings and gives them to her neighbors and shows them how to cook the vegetable. With the result that kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage, Swiss chard, broccoli, and other vegetables have been added to the diets of the people of the county.

## 2. Canning

Greene County women are outstanding for their beautiful and good canning. They can everything from cracklings to steaks, from tomatoes to corn. The average woman cans eleven different vegetables, six kinds of fruit, and an equal number of fruits in jellies, jams, and preserves. They dry string beans, butter beans, black eyed peas, corn, and apples. The women who turned in a report of their canning reported 11,000 quarts of tomatoes, 22,600 quarts of other vegetables, 28,400 quarts of fruits, 6,000 quarts of meat, and 5,000 quarts of preserves, pickles, etc.

In checking the results of the gardens the agent asked how the question "Did you sell any vegetables?" One woman replied, "No but I gave away a lot". Then the question, "Did you give away any vegetables?" and it was found that every woman who had a garden had shared it with her neighbor or some less fortunate than herself.

### 3. Clothing

This project was carried by two clubs. The women held all day sewing meetings so they could cut out their dresses and get them fitted in one day. The meeting was planned the month before. A discussion on materials and patterns was held at this time. Each woman was asked to bring a covered dish of food so that the hostess would not have to spend the day cooking.

The women arrived early and all tables possible were cleared and each woman spread her material. Patterns were measured and adjusted to fit the individual. The garments were cut by lunch time and fitted by time to go home. It was interesting to see the women who could sew well helping those who were not so skilled.

These women reported making 63 dresses at a saving of 130 dollars and 67 other garments at a saving of 50 dollars and 25 cents, 36 improving the type of shoes she wears. Ten women remodeled garments.

### 4. Poultry

In each of the eight home demonstration clubs the women have been informed of the request of the government for an increase in poultry products. The women have been urged to cull their flocks closely so as not to feed hens that are not paying birds. To check their present houses to see what improvements are needed to be made in them so that

the flocks will be properly housed. To feed the birds they kept for high production. Last spring a poultry specialist came to the county and spoke to four groups of people on "New Trends in Poultry Production". These meetings were well attended. 159 families reported culling their flocks. 152 improved their flocks by buying better baby chicks. 148 followed recommendations in chick rearing and production feeding.

c. Special Activities

(1) Nutrition

The Nutrition Committee was organized in the spring. Leading men and women were selected to make up the committee. When the personnel was being selected it was thought advisable to appoint some of the local teachers because of their influence on the children and in their communities. A committee of 26 members was set up. To get off to a good start the Professional Workers Council entertained those invited to serve to a big picnic supper on the Skyline Drive. At this time the purpose of the committee was discussed and a chairman elected.

In July the chairman attended the meeting of the Federation of Home Demonstration Club at its state meeting in Blacksburg. She browsed around in the room where the foods exhibits and demonstrations were held and brought back many suggestions and helpful pieces of illustrative literature. A leaders

training meeting was held by the home demonstration agent for the benefit of those on the committee. The meeting was well attended. Some of those present could not finish copying all the materials they wanted from the agents collection so arrangements were made to leave all materials where they could be found and the women came back at their own convenience and finished up.

Members of the committee are planning meals for the hot lunches in some of the schools, have worked with groups to raise money to purchase needed equipment for the lunch rooms and the committee is working to get the school board to prohibit the sale of candy and soft drinks in the schools. The School Board has voted not to permit it but has not notified the teachers to that effect.

Each member has agreed to ask for a few minutes on the program of the organization to which he or she belongs in which to explain the work of the Nutrition Committee and ask the cooperation of members in helping to secure better nutritional conditions in the county.

#### (2) Cotton Mattress Project

In January the mattress making center was moved from Stanardsville to the Resettlement where working conditions were much improved. Under this new set up each family could have a separate room in which to work on its mattresses. 353 families have made one

or more , making a total of 606 mattresses. During the time this project has been in session a small second hand furniture store has sold over 600 beds. There are 908 farms in the county. This means more than half of them have purchased beds. 8 mattresses have been made over. There have been several requests for help in making feather beds into mattresses which probably will be the next step.

The agent had the assistance of a WPA teacher and four NYA boys for awhile. However in the spring the NYA boys were cut off. The needles, pins, pencils, thread, and other supplies needed in making the mattresses were supplied by the mattress committee and each family paid 50 cents per mattress for the supplies. The WPA teacher checked the equipment when it was given to the family and when it was returned. If any of the large needles were missing the family was required to pay for it but if broken and the pieces returned no fee was charged. The agent visited the center at regular intervals to see how things were going and to check the workmanship on the mattresses. In most cases the family's pride in the product inspired good work.

Each day the families present were called together for a short demonstration in caring for their mattresses and instruction in gardening and other topics of interest. Later in the spring points on canning were discussed.

The securing of mattresses has been a boost to the morale of the low income families. This is shown very clearly by the number of beds and other furniture purchased from the second hand furniture store. One good thing in the house calls for something else. There have been many requests for sheets by the poorer people which unfortunately the agent had no way to supply. Other families have made protectors, pads, and sheets from feed bags. The announcement has been made that comforts will be made in the future and the families are beginning to look into the matter.

(3) Clinic

a. Pre school

The clubs had voted to sponsor a dental clinic but due to the dentists being called to the army the county was unable to secure a clinician so the clubs changed it into a pre school clinic. They were able to get the cooperation of a physician who did the work for 50 cents a child. He examined the child's throat, heart, lungs, skin, and vaccinated against smallpox. Next year the clubs hope to add typhoid serum to its list.

(4) Participation in Federation

a. District

Twenty eight women attended the district meeting in Louisa County this year. In past years the home demonstration agent has had to borrow cars from a

garage in order to provide transportation to the district meeting. This year there were more women who owned cars so it was not necessary to borrow any. One woman was talking to another about the meeting afterwards and in the conversation said, "I'd rather be able to sit on the stage with the leaders there than in any group I know of". That is the influence the district meeting is having on some of the women. In another case a husband was remarking about his wife being away from home and she turned on him and said, "One of the most valuable things I have ever heard was at the district meeting when the speaker urged us to buy good simple shoes for work and cheap ones for dress wear. And urged us to make our own clothes instead of buying them ready made". Many of the women came back with thoughts gained and passed them on. One of the greatest values though is the inspiration gained from meeting with so many fine women and hearing the thought provoking speeches. Each of the clubs had a report of the District meeting given at the next club meeting.

**b. State**

Two clubs and the county Homemaking Board paid their dues to the Federation. Three clubs sent delegates and there were two other women went. One represented the county Nutrition Committee. The women were all very much interested in what the women

in other counties were doing. They were proud when their county showed up well in any project and were anxious to add some of the things done by others to the program.

The women spoke more of the exhibits and social activities than of anything except the Navy officer's talk. All of these meetings have an inspiring effect upon the people who attend.

#### 6. Campaign

The clubs selected the establishing of out door fire places for each community as the county campaign project. The Ruckersville Club built the most elaborate one on the school grounds in their community, small grates were built in three other communities. One club raised the money to purchase needed supplies but were unable to get stone masons to do the work because all the men who could do the work went away on big construction jobs. As the fire place was being built on the church grounds the club voted to hold the funds until they could get someone to do the work who knew how to do a creditable job. In another case the cement was bought and rocks collected for one at a mission station. The mission worker was asked to secure the approval of the location and project from her supervisor. About this time her mother died and she left. A new worker moved in, saw the cement and used it to build some steps. However she plans to replace the cement and

the fireplace will be built later.

At the spring planning meeting when a campaign project for 1942 was being discussed the need for steam pressure cookers was brought up and the project to place a steam pressure cooker in each school with a lunch room was selected. The need was so urgent the women got right to work on the subject and five cookers have been placed already

## **7. Red Cross or other defense activities**

### **a. Red Cross**

The home demonstration agent assisted in advertising the Red Cross Roll Call and in talking up the importance of the 4-H club members joining the Junior Red Cross. The agent also assisted in distributing garments to be made.

### **b. Aluminum Drive**

The agent was appointed organizational chairman. She arranged to have the 4-H club members canvas the various homes, collect and store the discarded pans, until the State truck could collect it. Supervised the making of posters and the distribution of them to the various centers in the county. The cooperation of all members of the home demonstration clubs was asked and some members volunteered to act as community chairmen.

### **c. Enrollment for volunteer service**

When the Virginia Regional Defense Council made its drive for local volunteers the agents office was used as one of the enlistment points. Her NYA help assisted in advertising the time and need for enlistment and assisted enrollees in filling in cards.

### **d. Agricultural Defense Board**

When the Agricultural Defense Board met to agree upon the agricultural increases in production that Greene would take the home agent was present and took part in the discussion. She attended the

county meeting and made a talk on the importance of increasing the gardens, milk and poultry productions from the point of better nutrition here at home as well as for those abroad. She also attended other meetings of a like nature.

#### e. Health

The local physician asked that she be appointed on the county health committee

#### 8. Recreation

When the club officers are appointed a recreational chairman is chosen whose duty is to plan for some entertaining feature at each meeting. This enlivens the meeting and sends everyone home laughing, and in good spirits.

Each club plans an outing during the year. One club held a picnic at its new fireplace, five clubs went up on the Skyline Drive, one went to Richmond on a historical trip, one to Charlottesville to see Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson.

In December each club holds a Christmas party. The most elaborate one is held by the Stanardsville Club. It invites in the ministers who have churches in this community and has each take part on the program. After a very beautiful and appropriate, religious service the evening is turned over to the recreational leaders who direct the more informal part of the occasion, after which the refreshment committee serves delicious refreshments.

## 9. Achievement Day

This year the 4-H and adult Achievement Day were held jointly. All met together for the opening exercise, after which the 4-H club members went into another room for their session.

The women gave their reports in the form of a discussion with the chairman of the Homemaking Board leading the discussion. The women had two very interesting speakers one was the president of the Northern Virginia District of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs and the other was Mrs. Ben Wailes who was the first woman appointed on the Virginia National Defense Council. They spoke on "The Farm Woman's Place in National Defense"

While these women were speaking to the adults the county chairman of the Nutritional Committee and a home economic teacher were speaking to the boys and girls on subjects of interest to them. After these talks 4-H pins were awarded to all club members who had turned in a report of the years work.

There was an hour and a half left open for lunch which was served by the Stanardsville Home Demonstration Club. At 1:30 the group was called together again and a team of older youth from Albemarle's 4-H clubs led the boys and girls in folk games.

Since every agricultural agency has been teaching "Food Production" the exhibits this year were based

on farm and home production. A booth was arranged showing the fruits and vegetables that had been raised in the county and either canned, preserved, dried, or stored. On display were 16 various vegetables, 8 varieties of fruit canned, 21 varieties of vegetables fresh from the garden besides the dried peas, beans, and other seeds. From the field were exhibited corn, both yellow and white, oats, barley, and wheat.

To show the type of home improvement were a love seat that had been slip covered, one that had been reupholstered, two chairs that had been repaired, padded, and slip covered. One chair that had had a new split bottom put in it and one chair that had had a new cane back and bottom put in it.

(d) Human Interest

(1) Outstanding Work of Club

The Ruckersville Home Demonstration Club was anxious to see hot lunches put in the Ruckersville School so it appointed a committee to visit the school board and ask that a closed one room school be torn down and the materials from it be used to build a room onto the present school for a kitchen and dining room, the latter to be used also as a community room. The club appointed a committee to solicit as many donations as could be gotten. Then a play was given by local talent and the club members donated cakes for a cake walk and milk, sugar, eggs, etc. to make ice cream for sale. Later the club sponsored a community fair and gave the proceeds on the kitchen. Later the club sponsored a commercial demonstration and gave its commission to the fund. A committee was appointed to select a stove. It has functioned and the stove is in place and has been used. The club realized that it would be necessary for the school to have a garden if it was to have a satisfactory lunch. So the club appointed a committee to find a garden plot and to ask the WPA to assign a man to work it. Both was done. The club then contributed money for seeds and jars for canning and for a steam pressure cooker. During peach season the peaches were very cheap in this section of the country. The club bought a quantity and the members

gathered at the presidents home and canned 90 quarts of peaches and four quarts of peach juice. The club built a beautiful out-door fire place on the school grounds as part of the clubs part in the county campaign. When the work started two young men became so much interested that they did nearly all of the work. In appreciation of their cooperation the club gave each a lovely tie.

A two day furniture clinic was held in the winter and an all day slip cover meeting in the spring. 16 chairs, 3 love seats, and 1 couch were remodeled, repaired, and re-finished either by doing over the wood or by slip covering.

The club members contributed to the A. C. W. W. penny fund.

A special meeting was held on poultry at which a state specialist was the speaker.

#### (2) Story of outstanding individual

One club member was the mother of four 4-H club members. She felt the boys and girls needed more recreational facilities to make life more interesting and the young folks more contented. After thinking the matter through she called in the home demonstration agent and asked her assistance in forming a club for these boys and girls. The club was formed. It met twice a month. Once with the agent present and once without her. To make the club more vital this mother invited in other mothers to assist with the planning and the carrying out of the program. For details of the work done by the club read story of outstanding 4-H club story- section 2, division 5- (a).....

Besides all this club work this mother is a member of a home demonstration club, holds an office in it and attends regularly. She plans her food supply for the year and provides all of it possible through the production of a good garden and canning all type of vegetables raised to meet the food budget. By raising enough hens to supply the family with the needed poultry products. She cans her pork and when she can buys it to advantage a quarter of a beef. She attended the meetings of the club when the furniture clinic was held and fixed over several pieces of furniture.

She is an active member of her church, ladies aid society, community league, and any other organization that is formed for the building of a better community.

(3) An account of how a group recognized and overcame obstacles to achieve more satisfactory living.

The members of the Stanardsville Home Demonstration Club have been worried because of the lack of equipment for hot lunches at the county high school. They could not interest the parents in furnishing the needed equipment and the school board was not able to do anything. The agent was asked to visit the school board and ask for permission to go ahead and put the needed things there. She was instructed to help the women do anything that would not cost the school board anything. The women then raised money to build a chimney, buy a stove and a limited number of cooking utensils among them a large steam pressure cooker. The biggest thing the women did was break down some

very stubborn prejudice against serving the lunches on the part of a lot of the parents. The club has proven the project is worth while so now the school board is building a large dining room in the basement of the school and preparing to make a modern convenient kitchen.

## 2. Youth Work

### a. 4-H clubs

#### (1) Project Work

##### (a) Summer Projects

The 4-H club girls carried food preparation this past year. The leaders and the agent decided that it would be wise to give some food work all through the year in such subjects as making of biscuits, muffins, milk drinks, and dishes which would only take a short time then devote the summer months to other lines which required more time such as making yeast bread in June, canning in July and August. In order to give the club members all the time they needed in a few cases two small clubs were combined by the agent and the leaders taking the members from the smaller of two groups to the meeting place of the larger group. This helped in several ways. It spurred each club to have as good attendance as possible and helped the girls from different communities learn to know each other.

The agent and the leaders had games planned for the children to play or note book work or stories to fill in time while the bread was rising or the vegetables were processing.

The girls reported preparing 2272 foods at home this was an average of about 8 foods per club member. 15 foods were

demonstrated. The girls reported helping with 21,556 quarts of vegetables and 260 quarts of jellies, jams, etc. They averaged learning to eat 2 new foods each.

The garden and poultry projects were carried by both boys and girls. 168 of the club members assisted with the gardens, 140 had leafy vegetables through out the year, 161 were storing vegetables for winter use, 148 raised flowers and 133 helped beautify the home grounds. This fall the club members are planning to plant as many walnut trees as possible. Each club member is being asked to plant one as a good citizenship project.

With the poultry work the club members were required to either have birds of their own or assist with the care of the poultry flock on hand by improving their methods of raising the home flock. 44 kept records, 103 culled the home flock, 19 preserved eggs, 100 fattened birds for home use or market. There were 7341 birds in the flocks they handled. 91 improved their methods of chick rearing, 72 in production feeding, 93 improved sanitary conditions and parasite control methods, and 97 improved poultry houses and equipment.

Some of the girls and boys were interested in improving their homes. They watched what was being done in the furniture clinics and in three places 4-H club members asked for some help along that line. Three days were given to them. 21 chairs were reseated, 8 pieces of furniture renovated, repaired, remodeled, or refinished. 7 pieces of furniture made, 67 small articles and accessories made.

## **b. Home Responsibilities**

Each club member was given an opportunity to choose some responsibility that he or she would take as his or her part of the job of making home life happier and more efficient. The things selected were very interesting. Some of the jobs selected were cleaning the dining room every morning, sweeping the kitchen every day, care of own clothes, carrying in wood, carrying in water, feeding chickens, milking the cow, care of the milk, washing the dishes after certain meals without quarreling. Cooking supper each night. The club members were urged to use better methods in doing these jobs. 224 girls improved the selection of furnishings. 202 in the arrangement of furniture. The club members reported improving 160 bed rooms; 129 living rooms; 100 dining rooms; 99 kitchens; 20 storage spaces for clothing.

## **2. Health Work**

The health work done by the 4-H clubs was confined to working to develop better food habits in the club members. In some sections malnutrition is so evident one can not help but notice it, and it is largely due to peculiar food habits. The hot lunches which the 4-H clubs are sponsoring and helping with are doing a lot to break down old food habits and form new ones. The club members are being urged to eat and drink the foods that build strong teeth and bones.

## **3. Community Work**

In most of the schools in which hot lunches were served the 4-H clubs held lawn parties, put on plays, or entertainments of some kind to raise money to help with the lunch

room equipment. One club met and cleaned off a church ground. Three clubs raised money enough to send delegates to either Jamestown 4-H Club Camp or to the State Short Course.

The clubs assisted in the drive to collect waste aluminum. One club was furnished seed for gardens with the understanding that they would fill a given number of jars and give them to the school for the hot lunches. They filled nine dozen jars.

One club collected heavy cardboard boxes and then met one day and papered the walls of the woodshed which was attached to the school. Then with the ten dollars given by the Virginia Tuberculosis Association a flue was put in and a small stove purchased. Now that club is having hot lunches for the first time. One club has collected junk and sold it, also collected used clothing which still had a lot of wear in it and sold it to needy persons at a very low cost.

#### 4. Recreation

##### a. Home

At four 4-H clubs the members have made games to take home and use for home recreation. They have been encouraged to teach their brothers and sisters the games they learn at club meetings.

##### b. Community

As part of each clubs regular program some form of recreation is included. This adds spice and interest to the meeting.

During the summer each club has one or more picnics on

the Skyline Drive or at their own recreation center. For the club members in the more isolated areas where the children do not have an opportunity to go places the agent plans for the club members to be taken some place that really counts such as Charlottesville. One group had the pleasure of seeing a traffic light, a train, and a motorcycle for the first time.

One 4-H club raised money enough to buy an ice cream freezer so they could have refreshments at their regular summer meetings, and to buy the gas for two cars to take the club members to Richmond, Virginia on a historical trip. This group enjoyed the State Museum as much as anything it saw.

#### e. Camps

Greene County does not hold any county camps but had one girl and leader go to Blacksburg to the State Short Course and five girls and a leader to go to Jamestown 4-H Club Camp. The State Short Course discussed program is planned on a level too high for the present club members but the girls came home thrilled with the recreational and games part and with what they saw on the way there and back. It is different though with the Jamestown Camp. The girls came back with articles they had made and tales of other things they had learned and had seen. They get much more out of this camp.

(a) Story of outstanding work of club

The Bingham 4-H Club was organized at the request of several mothers who wanted the boys and girls of their community to have something to do that would be both educational and entertaining. The plan was that during the winter the club would meet once a month on Saturday afternoon but after school closed there would be two meetings each month with the leaders taking charge of one and the agent the other. This plan was carried out.

The club needed some recreational materials so it purchased some boards and made several games then painted them to make the product more attractive. The club then needed a chest to put its games in so it purchased material and made one.

The club wanted to take a historical trip to help with its history. When the trip was planned at the program planning meeting the club decided to learn to reseat chairs and raise the money that way. The home demonstration agent gave one afternoon to teach the club leader and several of the older boys and girls. The members then went over the community and gathered up all the chairs they could get and put in new seats at a nominal price. In this way they raised enough money to pay for the gas for two cars and thirteen members went. They saw Richmond thoroughly. Another year they hope to take in Jamestown and Yorktown.

The club also raised money by collecting and selling junk and by running a second hand clothing bureau from which

clothing could be purchased by needy families. The leaders took charge of the sales.

The club collected the scrap aluminum from its community and brought it to the county receiving station.

To celebrate the 4th of July the club erected a large flag pole and held a suitable dedicatorial service. It wanted to serve ice cream for refreshments so joined with the American Citizenship League in purchasing a freezer.

The club sent one of its members to Jamestown 4-H Club camp and one to the State Short Course.

The club sponsored an entertainment at the school house to help raise funds. It contributed \$1.50 toward buying the 4-H club pins to be given at Achievement Day to all club members completing the years work. And also gave a box of food to go in the Brunswick Stew which was served to those attending the Achievement Day Program.

The club members brought bags and made some clothing for two afflicted children. A box of good things to eat was given to the sister of one of the club members who is very ill. One club meeting was devoted to cleaning the grounds of the church whose name the club bears. The club voted \$1.00 to the Methodist Orphanage. The group saw this home when it was on its historical trip.

b. Outstanding individual

The outstanding individual in 4-H club work is a girl about twelve who lives with her two maiden aunts most of the time. She is the moving force which pushes the club forward. She was instrumental in getting the club to sell soup at noon to the school children. Her school did not have hot lunches. She started the club on a day to reseat chairs, she attended the Jamestown 4-H Club Camp, she attended every club meeting last year except one and she was at camp when it met. She is a five pointer. She has been treasurer of the club for two years. It did not have any money until she got busy. She undertook the care of her room as her part of the home responsibilities. She improved the arrangement of the furniture, pictures and accessories. She cooked 6 of the dishes demonstrated at club meetings at home. She planned and served 12 meals.

## IX. Progress made during the year.

The work has been carried into three communities with adults where it has not been before. Clubs were not organized but an interest was created and friendship formed which should lead to other activities.

The mattress project has made many contacts and friends for the work. It has helped to raise the standard of living in many homes by furnishing an incentive to buy better furniture to make the home more attractive.

The Nutrition Committee is helping to break down what is left of the prejudice against the school hot lunches and build a foundation that will keep the project in the schools after WPA help is discontinued.

The families are accepting the request to increase poultry, pork, vegetable and dairy production for National Defense and better local nutrition.

In three cases two clubs have been combined for the school year but each group will keep its own identity during the summer months.

The furniture clinics did much to impress the county board of supervisors with the value of the work.

## X. Plans and goals for 1942

1. To establish better local leadership.
2. To have each 4-H and home demonstration club hold at least two meetings, without the agent.
3. To work toward having hot lunches in every school in the county.
4. To increase the enrollment in the adult clubs at least 50.

5. To form 2 out of school 4-H clubs.
6. To do more home visiting.
7. To increase office contacts.
8. To keep better records.