ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

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FOR

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER AND TITLE PAGE ---------- 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS ---------- 2

SCOPE OF WORK ---------- 3

ADULT WORK ---------- 4

ADULT WORK ---------- 5

ADULT WORK ---------- 6

OTHER ACTIVITIES ---------- 7

OTHER ACTIVITIES ---------- 8

OTHER ACTIVITIES ---------- 9

OTHER ACTIVITIES ---------- 10

4-H CLUBS ---------- 11

PROJECT WORK ---------- 12

PROJECT WORK ---------- 13

PROJECT WORK ---------- 14

PROJECT WORK ---------- 15

OTHER ACTIVITIES ---------- 16

OTHER ACTIVITIES ---------- 17

WORK WITH OTHER AGENCIES ---------- 18

EVALUATION ---------- 19

SCOPE OF WORK

Home Demonstration Clubs

(A) There are eight organized Home Demonstration Clubs in the county; with a membership of one hundred forty five. They are located in the following communities: Abilene, Aspen Hill, Cullen, Charlotte, Nazareth, Phenix, White Oak, and Roanoke.

Three hundred ninty five women were reached by home demonstration members this year.

(B) There are eleven organized 4-H clubs, with a member ship of two hundred forty one. They are located in the following communities: White Oak, Keysville, Salem, Charlotte, Madisonville, Nazareth, Aspen Hill and Staunton Hill.

(E) There are ninty three families who have been reached through Neighborhood and Community Leaders.

(F) Three hundred forty two families have been reached through publicity, office calls, and visits.

(G) Out of eight hundred eighty four farm families in the county, the estimate number of families reached is 552.

ADULT WORK

Project Work

In determining the Home Demonstration Program, the general and county conditions were considered and the program centered around these conditions. This program was centered around some phase of home improvement, clothing, & preparation and preservation of foods, since these were problems families seemed to need most assistance with.

Clothing

In order to better prepare families for the clothing project, a sewing machine school was held, with seven leaders participating. They were taught how to clean and adjust their machines. As a result thirty families have been assisted by leaders.

Since clothing and materials are so expensive; members decided to renovate their old clothing for further use.

As a result of demonstrations and discussions, one hundred thirty four coats, dresses and skirts were renovated. They were also assisted with care, selection and clothing construction.

Home Improvement

Home Improvement is still a major problem in the county, however families are beginning to realize its importance. Through discussions, bulletins and demonstrations, twenty families were assisted with kitchen improvement.

Mrs. Jennie Edmonds, of Abilene community, has made her kitchen more attractive by painting. The oil cloth for the wash table, curtains, linoleum and kitchen set blend with the color scheme. A pantry has been built for the storage of her cooking utinsels, and a kelvinator and cabinet has been purchased.

Twelve kitchens were painted. Six kelvinators and 3 stoves have been purchased. Sixteen pairs of curtains made, and six linoliems have been purchased for kitchen floors.

ADULT WORK

Project Work

Thirty-five (35) bed rooms have been improved by painting, new furniture purchased or old remodeled, and by attractive curtains. Families were assisted with their arrangement of furniture, floor coverings and window treatments.

Mrs. Martha Carrington, of the Taro community, has improved her home by painting her dining room, papering and getting new curtains for the living room.

Storage

Through demonstrations and discussions, families have begun to realize the importance of adequate storage space. Thirty-five (35) families have provided storage spaces for clothing as well as canned foods.

Mrs. Martha Carrington, of Taro, had a basement added to her home to provide the needed storage space for her fruits and vegetables.

Mrs. Jennie Edwards, Abilene community, added a pantry for her cooking utensils, and closets for clothing and canned foods.

Food Preparation

To get farm families to see the need of balanced meals, was difficult at first, but after many discussions and demonstrations; they began to improve. Members were taught the seven basic food groups in the diet, and meals were planned which included them.

Members of the Phenix club were interested in planning menus, which would include the seven basic groups. They were assisted in the planning of menus for a week, after which they planned their own menues for a month. The result is; their meals have improved in quality and balance, and fifty-two (52) others have been assisted through them.

ADULT WORK

Project Work

Food Preservation

One hundred thirty nine (139) families have been assisted with food preservation. Equipment, selection and preparation of foods were discussed, and demonstrations on how to use the pressure cooker, and boiling water baths were given.

Twenty-five canners have been purchased, and 5,058 qts. of fruit, 9,173 qts. of vegetables and 500 qts. of meat have been canned.

County Advisory Board

The County Advisory Board is composed of fifteen members, who help with community planning and problems.

The Board had two good meetings, in which plans were made for our County Farmer's Conference. Delegates were chosen for the State Advisory Board Meeting. Transpotation to the Farmer's Conference, held at Petersburg, Va. was discussed, and plans made for the Achievement Day Program.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

County Farmer's Conference

In order to inform farm families of new and improved practices; The County Farmer's Conference was held March 26th. with sixty (60) persons in attendance.

Subjects spoken upon were; Food Conservation, by Agent Wm. Pierce, Halifax county. Hay and Pastures, by Agent Elliott, Campbell county. Clean Milk and Containers, was treated by a representative of the Coble Milk Co. Halifax, Va. Mr. Bowman.

Much information was given to the group, which if used will prove very beneficial to them.

Tours

Sixty farmers from five different communities, met at Taro School Aug. 15th., to participate in a county farm tour, of Taro and Aspen Hill communities.

Farms and farm homes were inspected on the tour, for new improvements.

Mrs. James Garrington's home, in Taro community was inspected by the ladies, and found to be very neat and tidy. She has had a cooling system for milk put in, which enables her to now sell whole milk on market.

This tour gave all who attended a chance to see what improvements have been made in the two communities visited.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Achievement Day

An Achievement Day Program was set on Nov. 6th. Vegetables and canned products were put on exhibition, also some needle craft, and was judged by Home Agent, Mrs. Delores Moss, Mecklinburg county.

There were three educational exhibits on display. These included a sanitary toilet, a sanitary spring and a skeleton with ribbons attached to certain foods, to show what part of the body is benefited when we eat certain foods, that the ribbons were attached to. This helpful health exhibit was put on for us by the County Health Department.

Articles which can be made from feed bags, were put on display by the Home Demonstration Adult Clubs, and the 4-H Clubs. This display consisted of namely: An adults and a childs dress, a dresser scarf crocheted from thread from the bags, a vanity set, an apron, a set of pillow slips, table cloth, boys bag sailor suit dyed blue, curtains, pot holders, and a smock.

A baby's layette and bassanet was put on by the Home Economic Department.

After the judging, a program was rendered, which included reports on work done during the year, given by the Farm and Home Agents. Different clubs also sang songs and said readings on the program.

Approximately 500 persons attended the Achievement Day Program, and were very pleased at the accomplishments that have been made during the year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Five County Fair

All of the 4-H clubs in the county participated in the Five-County Fair, held in Farmville, Va., the 22nd. thru the 27th. of Sept.

Garden and canned products of, peaches, corn, pears peach pickle, canned beets, tomatoes and tomato juice, canned apples, and preserves were exhibited from the clubs. They also exhibited in the art craft department.

A total of $50.00 in prizes was won by the clubs.

Leadership

Sixteen leaders have been appointed, in different communities. These leaders carry on meetings in the absence of the agents.

The home demonstration committee meets with or with out the Advisory Board, and assists with program planning.

Three training meetings were held, in the adjustment and cleaning of sewing machines. One was held by the District Agent, and the others by the Agent.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other Means of Reaching People

Two hundred ninty (290) persons were reached through home demonstration members during National Home Demonstration week. Each member contacted two persons and informed them of the home demonstration program.

A story writing feature was conducted among the clubs. The best story was written by Mrs. Lelia Braxton, of the White Oak club. Her story was printed in the local paper.

Through the community and neighborhood leaders, one hundred fifty (150) persons have been reached. These leaders have been very useful in helping explain the work in their community and neighborhood. They have also assisted in the organization of clubs.

By putting articles in the local newspaper, many families have been reached. Special activities are put in, and after wards the results. Thus we inform people of the activities undertaken and the results obtained.

4-H CLUBS

Organization

The 4-H Club Council is composed of twelve members. The council had two meetings this year, one in the fall and one in the spring. At these meetings officers were trained and the plan of work developed.

Through the council, delegates for the Wild Life Conference and State Short Course were chosen.

Project Work

The adult leaders and club members held a meeting, at which the various problems that confronted the members in the community were discussed.

Since the [illegible] were centered around home management and clothing projects were taken in housekeeping, home improvement, [illegible] and laundering.

PROJECT WORK

Clothing

Many of the girls needed help in the care of their clothing, and selected this as their project.

Demonstrations were given in making and equipping sewing boxes, washing and mending anklets, darning and patching, and washing and blocking sweaters.

As results: Twenty-five mending boxes were made and equipped. Seventy-five sweaters were washed and blocked. One hundred twenty five dresses darned. Two hundred fifty garments cleaned. Twenty-five are now able to take accurate body measurements and use a pattern.

A very attractive mending box was made out of a cake box, by Mamie Randolph, member of the Madisonville club.

HomeKeeping

As a preparation for future homemaking, 180 4-H club members enrolled in the homemaking project. 140 members completed.

Demonstrations and discussions on housekeeping were had. 180 members cared for their rooms three months. Ninety-four mended linens. 180 washed dishes two months. One hundred forty cleaned lamp chimneys two months. One hundred forty set the table. 180 put out garbage. 180 brought in fuel. 140 lengthened sheets, and 180 made a set six table mats.

PROJECT WORK

Home Improvement

As a continuation of the housekeeping project, members enrolled in home improvement. Through their projects members were taught to make their rooms attractive, by the most inexpensive and serviceable methods.

Demonstrations and discussions as to the care of the room, were given. Color plans, floor covering, window treatments, refinishing furniture, and making dressing tables and stools.

Marilyn Jennings, Charlotte C.H. club, made her room attractive by making herself a dressing table from orange crates. The table was painted and a dresser skirt made. The stool was made from a nail keg, and covered with material the same color of the dresser skirt. From the same material draperies were made for the windows. She also painted the bed and floor, thus making her room very attractive.

PROJECT WORK

Laundering

Seventy-two members enrolled in laundering, with 65 completing.

Through this project members were taught the best ways of doing home laundering, and the equipment necessary to save time and energy.

Demonstrations were given in lining clothes baskets, making clothes pin bags, and padding and making ironning board covers.

Twenty-six members enrolled of the Taro club, and all members completed.

Personal Laundering

Members were taught the best methods of doing their laundry. Demonstrations were given in washing socks, hose, slips, panties, blouses and dresses. They were also taught how to mend the same. They were taught water softening agents, and to test hard water.

PROJECT WORK

Food Preservation

One hundred thirty-five members enrolled in food preservation, with a total of one hundred twenty completing.

Demonstrations in the equipment needed, selection of foods, preparation of foods, canning with the pressure canner and the hot water bath method.

One thousand seven hundred seventy-five (1,775) quarts of canned fruits and vegetables were canned this year.

Members were also urged to store their canned fruits in a dark dry place to keep it nice and tasty, as wet or damp storage places have a tendancy to change the taste of fruit when later opened for use.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Rural Life Sunday

Rural Life Sunday was held at Taro Church, with approximately 100 persons in attendance.

The minister preached a lovely 4-H club sermon, in which he praised 4-H club work to the highest degree. He also urged more boys and girls to join, as it will be a great help to them in years to come.

After the minister finished his part of the progras, the day was turned over to the club members, who was led in the 4-H club pledge by a junior leader, Iris Wilson.

Achievement Day

Achievement Day gave 4-H club members a chance to put on display some of the work they had done during the year.

These exhibits included canned fruits and vegetables, laundry equipment, needle craft and garden products.

A vegetable dialogue was given by the Galilee club. It was very appropiate as it told what foods should be eaten in order to have a well balanced meal.

Members from other 4-H clubs also sang songs, and said recitations.

All seemed to have enjoyed the day.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Leadership

Ten adult and two junior leaders have been appointed to work with 4-H clubs.

These leaders are to assist with projects and demonstrations. They have been very helpful in carrying out programs in the absence of the agent.

Organized project leaders, have been very helpful in contacting members, distributing information, conducting meetings and giving demonstrations to 4-H club members.

WORK WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Health Department

Work has been done with the County Health Department in securing voluntary leaders from home demonstration clubs, to assist with clinics.

Assistance was rendered at a maternal clinic, in which information was given on the importance of eating the proper foods during pregnancy.

The Christmas Seal sale was assisted by the agent and local leaders, also they helped get members to attend the tuberculosis X-Ray clinic, being held Nov. 24th. and 25th.

School Cafeteria

We assisted four schools in the preparation of their school lunch programs, and also the selection of foods and their meal planning.

EVALUATION

The Home Demonstration Program in Charlotte County, has proved to be a great advantage to the farm families. The leaders appear to be very interested, and accept the instructions given them with great enthusiasm.

Through clubs and leaders, members are able to present their problems, and have them solved.

They have accepted a leadership responsibility, seem to enjoy the contact with each other each month.

Results show improved practices in and around the homes.

Through home visits, the distribution of bulletins, local leaders, and discussions in unorganized communities, more farm families become interested in the program, and see the need for organization in their communities.