

1946

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

FOR

SMYTH COUNTY

MARION VIRGINIA

BY

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Home Demonstration Agent

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III. Scope of Work

A. Home Demonstration Clubs:

Number 3 membership 51

Other groups sponsored by Home Demonstration Clubs:

white 2 membership 25

Other women reached by Home Demonstration club members 75.

B. 4-H Clubs:

Number 4 Membership 59

C. Estimate total number families reached 400

No. farm families in county 2001

IV. Organization

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

This committee has not been organized since home demonstration work has only been organized four months. Plans are to form a committee in early April of 1947 when a greater number of clubs have organized.

B. County Agricultural Board

There is no record of this board having met this year. Plans are under way to reorganize this board.

C. County 4-H Council

The 4-H Council did not meet in 1946. The Council plans to reorganize in December. The All-Star members of adult leaders in the county will be invited to help the Council members plan their program of work for the new year.

V. Leadership

A. Adult Work

(1) Twelve club officers have been elected in the three organized home demonstration clubs. A list of duties has been given each officer for study. Fourteen days has been spent by leaders in helping to organize club work in their communities.

(2) Two project leaders have been selected for each club. These leaders will assist the home agent in giving demonstrations for awhile until the club organization grows stronger and is older.

B. 4-H Work

(1) Twenty-four organizational leaders have been elected in four organized 4-H clubs.

Each 4-H club has a sponsor who has helped the members with programs, camp and picnics.

Approximately 30 days has been given by all leaders in promoting 4-H work.

VI. Results

A. Home Demonstration Club Project Work

1. Project Work

a. Food

(1) Conservation

Better canning methods have been discussed in all home demonstration clubs.

Individual canning problems have been discussed when home visits were made. Proper storage of foods was emphasized.

b. Clothing

(1) Consumer problems

(a) Buying

Buying ready-made garments was discouraged due to poor quality and increased prices.

(b) Care

Care of clothing was discussed at each club meeting.

c. House Furnishings

(1) Construction

(a) Rugs

Two demonstrations were held on making home-made rugs. Hooked, crocheted and braided rugs were displayed. Instructions on making each type was demonstrated. The crocheted rug was most popular because of the time and expense in making it.

(b) Homemade Gifts

Homemade gifts, using materials on hands at home, was demonstrated at three meetings. Such things as laundry bags, shoe bags, bed linens and tea towels were made from feed bags as a result of these meetings.

2. Home Demonstration Club Activities

The three organized clubs have met three times but the work is too ~~new~~ to report any special club activities for this year.

4-H Clubs

1. Project Work

(a) Poultry

This project was carried on under the supervision of the farm agent with the 4-H girls. Ten girls were enrolled with three girls completing.

(b) Garden

Four girls were enrolled in the garden project.

(c) Home Ground Beautification

Three girls carried this project with 100 percent completion. The county winner received the county medal for submitting the best report.

2. Brief account of work of one Club

The Sugar Grove 4-H club represented the largest club in the county with a total enrollment of fifty-two boys and girls.

This club achieved outstanding results with their 1946 projects. The boys carried off honors in the Bristol 4-H baby beef and fat hog shows. One member represented the club on the county livestock judging team in the state contest and his record of 6th highest individual in the contest is considered excellent.

The summer activities of the club included one picnic and a week's camp at the county 4-H camp for nine of its members.

The girls and sponsor of this club made dish towels from feed bags for the 4-H camp this summer.

To this club goes the distinction of having the Big Chief for the 1947 county 4-H camp.

3. County 4-H Camp

Smyth county is one of the few counties in the State having a county 4-H camp. This is the second year the 4-H members have met at the Community Council Camp at Hungry Mother State Park for a week's camp activities.

Twenty-five 4-H boys and girls attended with three club leaders, the county farm and home agents, and three members from the State Extension staff.

An interesting program of class work, recreation, and swimming was planned. Classes in nature study, leather craft, and rope work was taught each morning.

Camp activities were well carried out according to Indian Tribal Lore of this section of Virginia.

An exhibit of handicraft was another interesting feature of the camp. The display consisted of coin purses, key rings, and bill folders made of leather, and rope halters.

Each camper displayed two or more pieces of handicraft. A prize of war stamps was awarded the girls and boy doing the best work.

Camp was officially closed with a camp fire program of songs, challenges, and an impressive candle lighting ceremony.

Parents and friends visited the camp the last evening and participated in a watermelon feast before the final program.

C. Other Work Done by Home Demonstration Agent

1. County home economics workers

A complete list of all home economists in the county was compiled and sent to the Southwest District chairman of the Home Economics Association.

The home agent attended the District Home Economics meeting in Bristol, also the State Home Economics meeting held in Richmond. One home economics teacher attended our 4-H camp and had charge of the leather craft work for the girls. The same teacher is now sponsor for the 4-H club in her school.

A conference has been held with the home economics workers to discuss project work, thereby avoiding any overlapping in the girls' program of work.

2. Rural electrification program

The home agent has cooperated with the Appalachian Electric Power Company in arranging for wiring and better lighting meetings held in the county. The lighting specialist of the Appalachian Electric Power Company will spend some time with the home demonstration agent in giving demonstrations on better lighting in the communities expecting to wire their homes in the near future.

Three new electric lines have been completed in the county.

3. Red Cross

The home agent has cooperated in every way possible with the local Red Cross Chapter. A committee meeting was attended at which time plans were made to use the Red Cross, nutrition exhibit in the county, displaying it in the schools and store windows.

VII. Appraisal of the Most Significant Contributions to the County in the Home Demonstration Program This Year.

The home demonstration program in Smyth county started August 1st, 1946.

During the past four months, the home agent has spent a great deal of time home visiting to learn the county and its people.

Three home demonstration clubs have been organized. Two other groups have met one time and plan to organize next month.

The program is so very new to the farm families, however, the work with them so far has given the women an opportunity to think through what they want and make plans for organization.

It has given them an understanding of what they can gain from having home demonstration clubs in their communities.

The response to the program has been gratifying.